

# 100 GREAT FEDERAL EMPLOYEES

Addresses in the United States Senate  
Honoring Outstanding Public Servants

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EDWARD E. KAUFMAN

United States Senator

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## Foreword

The idea for a series of speeches honoring great federal employees came into being shortly after I agreed to be appointed to the United States Senate in late 2008. I would be returning to the Senate after retiring as the Chief of Staff to then-Senator Joe Biden and from thirteen years serving on the Broadcasting Board of Governors, this time as a member. During my more than two decades working for Senator Biden, I had the great fortune to meet so many outstanding men and women from across government. They chose to pursue careers in public service – a choice that all too often brings little reward or recognition.

When I came to the Senate, I realized that I had an opportunity to draw attention to America's civil servants and their important role in our everyday life. Government employees work tirelessly to care for our veterans, enforce laws against financial fraud, regulate air traffic, protect our borders, engage in humanitarian work overseas, and much more. Many risk their lives to serve in dangerous jobs; others must uproot their families several times over the course of their careers.

Most earn far less than their counterparts in the private sector, and none receive the kind of bonuses that have become the norm on Wall Street. Their reward, as I said in my first speech in the series on May 4, 2009 (pp. 2-8), is the certainty that they have made a difference – that they can look back in their retirement years and know that they served their nation and contributed to the public good.

That is why I launched this series, selecting 100 Great Federal Employees to honor weekly from the Senate floor during my term in office. I wanted to share their stories with my colleagues and the American people and highlight the values that motivate them in their public service. In doing so, I tried to select a diverse group of honorees from a broad range of agencies and jobs. Some have had long careers; others are just getting their feet wet. Some are senior executives; others are on the front lines. Together, they form a colorful mosaic of America's outstanding civil service.

In this volume, I have chosen to organize the speeches thematically in order to highlight some of the broad areas in which federal employees contribute to our national life. Whether they are safeguarding our homeland security, leading the way in science and technology, or expanding access to the American dream, U.S. government employees remain unsung heroes.

One of the themes to which I returned several times throughout the series is that civilian government workers and military personnel are all federal employees. While some choose to serve their nation in uniform, others do so in civilian public service jobs. They all play a critical role in keeping Americans safe and free, and they complement each other through their work. I tried to convey this message in several of the speeches, including one coinciding with the Winter Olympics (pp. 52-54), when I selected three Army officers competing in the 2010 games as my Great Federal Employees that week.

I hope that Americans all across the country will read these inspiring stories and draw from them lessons about service and citizenship. The men and women featured in the series are just

100 out of nearly two million federal employees, working day-in and day-out to make this country a better place.

In compiling these speeches, I want to acknowledge the hard work of my staff and the numerous departmental and agency Congressional liaisons – themselves great federal employees – who helped identify these hundred honorees. I also thank the Partnership for Public Service and the Arthur S. Flemming Award Commission for their recommendations and assistance. Finally, I am appreciative that my friend and colleague, Senator Mark R. Warner of Virginia, has agreed to continue this series in the 112<sup>th</sup> Congress and beyond.

Edward E. Kaufman  
United States Senator

# Introduction:

## Recognizing Public Service

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*"Federal employees deserve recognition for the vital roles they fill each day. Many risk their lives enforcing the laws we pass in this chamber. They care for our veterans. They toil in laboratories to create new energy technologies. Our federal workers safely manage the complex network of flights crossing our skies day and night. They deliver our mail, regulate fair housing practices, and conduct our diplomacy abroad. They serve in all three branches of our government. They are, in many ways, silent sentinels of our nation's well-being."*

- May 4, 2009

# Public Service Recognition Week 2009

May 4, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, today marks the beginning of Public Service Recognition Week. This is a time to recognize the hard-working and devoted men and women who serve in federal, state, county, and municipal government.

I want to make particular mention of the several programs taking place throughout the week in celebration of our civil servants and their contribution. I know that the Partnership for Public Service, an organization whose mission is to highlight our finest government workers and promote public service, will be marking the week by awarding their annual Service to America medals.

I congratulate the medal finalists and thank them for their excellence in service to our nation.

This is an appropriate occasion to address a subject so relevant to the way we face the challenges before us as a nation. These challenges have shaken the public's confidence in our financial markets, in our economy and in our government. We must work to restore the public's confidence.

So many of the solutions being presented – to the rising cost of health care, to the multiple threats from overseas, to the mortgage crisis – rely primarily on the work of dedicated and dependable civil servants. The federal employees who work day-in and day-out to better our country – often at great private sacrifice – deserve our public's confidence, and that is what this speech will be about.

In the post-9/11 era of insecurity, and following years of political indecision and divisive partisanship, we are left with an abundance of problems. Our honored veterans complain of diminishing benefits, while the young decry increases in the cost of education. America's health care system is outdated and leaves millions uninsured. We remain painfully addicted to foreign oil, and auto manufacturers require more public funds to stay afloat. The sum of our challenges rises to a level unseen in decades.

Of course, whenever Americans face difficulty, we display that greatest trait in our nature. Service to the common good has been our answer to every hardship since even before the birth of our Republic. One would be hard-pressed to find any public figure of note who does not highly and vocally praise the virtues of community service and volunteerism. Indeed, in every

neighborhood, in all fifty states, one can find our citizens extending their hands in help to their fellow Americans and to the unfortunate throughout the world.

Likewise, no one can refrain from honoring the service and sacrifice of our brave men and women in uniform. Their dedication and diligence ensure our safe borders and sustain our liberty. The hard work of our service-members is rightly congratulated.

But, Mr. President, there are those who give so much of themselves, and often so many years of their lives, yet who receive hardly any share of recognition. In the recent past, the disparagement of our federal employees – the greatest civil service in the history of republican government – has become, sadly, commonplace. Diminishing their contribution to this nation is an all-too-frequent exercise.

Federal employees deserve recognition for the vital roles they fill each day. Many risk their lives enforcing the laws we pass in this chamber. They care for our veterans. They toil in laboratories to create new energy technologies. Our federal workers safely manage the complex network of flights crossing our skies day and night. They deliver our mail, regulate fair housing practices, and conduct our diplomacy abroad. They serve in all three branches of our government. They are, in many ways, silent sentinels of our nation's well-being.

Indeed, federal employees have become indispensable to our national life. With a generation of federal workers nearing retirement, we need to attract our most talented citizens back to public service. Good, honest, and responsive government requires the best civil servants.

Throughout our history, great men and women answered the call to serve in the federal government – citizens from all walks of life and from every corner of America. There are those who dedicate their entire careers to public service, but there are also so many Americans who enter federal employment for just a short period. Even the novelist William Faulkner worked part-time as a postmaster as a young man.

The nature of our federal workers today is the same as it was when the French philosopher, Alexis de Tocqueville, visited in the early nineteenth century. He observed that, and I quote, “Public officers in the United States are commingled with the crowd of citizens; they have neither palaces, nor guards, nor ceremonial costumes. This simple exterior of the persons in authority is connected not only with the peculiarities of the American character, but with the fundamental principles of that society.”

I too was a federal employee when I worked for many years with then Senator Joe Biden, and I can attest as much as anyone that to serve entails responsibility and dedication. During my years in government work, including 13 years as a member of the Broadcasting Board of

Governors, I met so many hard-working, well-qualified, and devoted public servants, most of whom unfortunately will not be recognized individually by the public for their important contributions.

The American people collectively put their faith in all who work in government, from those elected to the highest offices to those, like Faulkner, working part-time for an hourly wage. Our esteemed predecessor in this house, Henry Clay of Kentucky, once declared that, "Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people."

Senator Clay could not have been more correct. Those who serve the Republic carry the heavy responsibility of not working for the benefit of themselves alone but for the good of all. What should be a source of pride to those who enter employment in the federal government has become, all too often, a thankless job.

Serving in the federal government can be an enriching experience, and we need to do more to promote civil service among young people. I am encouraged that there is a growing desire now, unlike in the past several years, among our "best and brightest" students to seek federal jobs. For so long, the allure of easy wealth on Wall Street and scorn for government work led our young graduates to overlook positions in the civil service.

But it should not take a recession and a popular new administration to attract this talent. Our young people are eager to take on responsibility, to prove themselves worthy of others' trust. They want to have a part in what President Obama has called "repairing the world."

With more recognition of our federal workforce and praise for its important contribution, there is no reason why we cannot convince these young, idealistic Americans to seek in government what they so desire: a role in history, a chance to shape their world.

The recent decision by Kal Penn, the young Hollywood star, to accept a position working in the administration advances this effort significantly. Despite a lucrative career in film and on television, Penn, a second-generation American whose parents are immigrants from Mumbai, announced that he would take a couple of years off from acting to serve his country in the federal government. When asked about his motives, he said: "It's probably because of the value system my grandparents instilled in me. ...There's not a lot of financial reward in these jobs. But, obviously, the opportunity to serve in a capacity like this is an incredible honor."

Mr. President, when I was young, it used to be that this honor, which Penn speaks of, drew young people by the thousands to careers in our civil service. A job in government was a mark of distinction. It was a privilege to be able to work for the betterment of the American people.



However, in recent years, that honor has been eroded by the misconception that our civil service is growing beyond measure and consists of those in Washington who are out of touch with ordinary Americans.

But I say, Mr. President, that this characterization is completely untrue. The number of federal employees today has not grown significantly larger than its size in the 1960s. In fact, eighty-five percent of federal employees live and work outside Washington. They are ordinary Americans, yet they perform extraordinary work.

As de Tocqueville observed more than 150 years ago, the qualities embodied by our civil servants reflect the greatest values we hold dear as Americans.

Federal employees display exemplary citizenship, choosing of their own accord to pursue careers that not only provide for their families but also benefit the nation as a whole. This is despite the advantages to private sector employment, which I mentioned earlier. Our civil servants are industrious. They work hard, tackle difficult problems affecting millions of their fellow citizens, and do so with grace and humility.

They often need to take risks, not only to make new discoveries in science and engineering, or to represent us in unsafe corners of the world, but also to expose unnecessary waste and corruption where it may arise. The history of our civil service is filled with those who chose to uphold the public trust even when at a danger to their own lives or careers.

Their work requires great perseverance, and results may take longer than their tenure in office. It requires great care and attention to detail. When the public's faith is bestowed upon you, there can be no half-hearted efforts. Most of all, employees in our federal government display an unbelievable level of modesty.

Mr. President, you may wonder why I go on about the virtues of our public servants when there are so many pressing matters to be considered by this body. I return, however, to my first point – that no matter what programs we launch to get America back on the right path, they will be carried out by our federal workers.

Exemplary cases abound, but I want to highlight a few individuals in particular who embody these values and reflect the excellence of our civil service as a whole. They have each been selected by a blue ribbon panel – which includes Senator Susan Collins, in concert with the Partnership for Public Service – to receive a Service to America medal.

When she began her job as Director of the Office of Public Housing Programs in 2002, Nicole Faison inherited a HUD rental assistance program rated for thirteen years as a “high risk” program by the Government Accountability Office due to rampant waste, abuse, and fraud. Today it is recognized for helping more low-income families receive housing assistance without wasting resources. Under Nicole’s guidance, the program eliminated over \$2 billion in fraudulent payments and earned praise for its streamlined operations.

Since 9/11, there has been much attention on the security of cargo containers entering our country from overseas. Leading the charge to secure our ports, Tracy Mustin serves as Director of the Department of Energy’s Office of Second Line of Defense. Under Tracy’s leadership, her office has installed monitoring devices at more than a hundred airports, seaports, and border crossings in over forty countries, which help detect and prevent the trafficking of nuclear or radiological substances. She also oversees the Megaports Initiative, which screens and monitors cargo entering major seaports around the world. In addition to her responsibilities as a civil servant, Tracy is commissioned as a captain in the Navy Reserve.

While Tracy and her team have been fortifying our nation’s second line of defense against terrorism, brave men and women of the Armed Forces remain overseas fighting on the first line of defense. When our wounded warriors return home, they can thank the dedicated civilian employees of our Defense Department for significant advances in the treatment and care they receive for their injuries.

Dave Carballeyra, the Air Force’s Director of Stereolithography, introduced new 3-D technology for bone and tissue imaging, which has improved treatment and rehabilitation care for wounded veterans. In particular, his work has helped soldiers suffering severe burns from bombings in Iraq and Afghanistan and those requiring surgery to attach prosthetic devices. These advances have significantly improved their quality of life. Believe it or not, Dave is only twenty-five years old.

Another public servant of note, whom I very much want to mention, is Dr. Rajiv Jain. Each year, it is estimated that two million patients develop infections while in U.S. hospitals for routine procedures. A hundred thousand of these patients die as a result, and the elderly and newborn are particularly susceptible. Rajiv and his team at the Veterans Affairs hospital in Pittsburgh are at the forefront of an effort to reduce these infections. The infection rate at their VA facility has already dropped sixty percent, and the strategy developed by Rajiv to prevent infections has now been adopted at all 153 VA hospitals. When asked about his work, he commonly explains that, “One infection is too many.”

The final person I will mention, who works for the Department of Energy, has proven wrong those who are convinced that government can’t do something right.

After the end of the Cold War, when the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant near Denver was designated as a Superfund site, it was estimated that it would take seventy years and nearly \$40 billion to clean it up. Many advocated a permanent quarantine of the site, arguing that its rehabilitation was not worth the cost. Frazer Lockhart took charge of the cleanup effort in 1995 and finished the job in ten years, spending only \$7 billion. Today, ninety-five percent of the original site has been de-listed from the Superfund and will be set aside as a 6,200 acre wildlife refuge. Frazer's sound management and perseverance led to the first-ever cleanup of a former nuclear weapons facility – not only sixty years ahead of schedule but also \$30 billion under budget.

Mr. President, these stories are just a few of countless many. Indeed, there are a great number of exceptional federal employees, and I hope to continue sharing their stories before the Senate and honoring their service over the coming weeks and months, beginning with this group. I invite my fellow Senators to join me on those or other occasions in doing the same. These men and women daily carry out the work of developing new technologies, protecting our free markets, ensuring a cleaner environment, and advancing our interests around the world.

I believe that the Founders foresaw the need for a vibrant and effective civil service, and that they would be proud of the federal employees serving today. When the first Congress convened in New York, on the fourth of March, 1789, its first matter of business was to fulfill an obligation set to it by the Constitution. Article Six declares that all public officers are to be bound by an oath or affirmation to support the Constitution, but the document leaves it up to Congress to decide on the form.

The first piece of legislation ever to be passed by the United States Congress and signed into law by President Washington codified this simple but poignant oath: "I do solemnly swear or affirm that I will support the Constitution of the United States."

In the years since, it has been expanded to the oath presently taken by all of us who serve here in this chamber and in the House, and by every federal employee. But the underlying point remains unchanged from that original oath.

What the Founders intended in their first act of government, and what we now reaffirm with each taking of our modern oath, is that everyone who serves in our government is not only obligated to support the Constitution but also entrusted with that responsibility. That trust – the same as was noted by Clay – is the foundation of our civil service. It is the guiding principle of our federal workers and the reason they deserve the public's confidence.

Careers in government frequently pay far less than comparable careers in the private sector, and many times our federal employees are asked to move across the country or even overseas to perform their duties. Many serve for twenty years or more, leaving a lasting impact on communities and on our national policies without special recognition. They never see bonuses like those paid on Wall Street or elsewhere in the private sector.

However, after many years of service, when our civil servants retire, they can look back on their careers and know, with certainty, that when their country needed them, they gave of themselves. They gave to our nation and they know that their contribution, even if little recognized, has been genuine and significant.

This is their bonus: the satisfaction and the knowledge that they have answered the call to duty; that their lives have surely served a meaningful purpose.

Mr. President, again please let it be noted that the first week of May each year is marked as Public Service Recognition Week, and it is with great pride that I honor the service and sacrifices of our federal employees.

I thank them – and I urge my colleagues to join me this week and in future weeks to thank them – for their continued work in support of our recovery during this challenging time.

# Leading the Way in Science, Engineering, & Technology

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*"Let us look once more, in these rough times, to the stars – to the limits of space and those who would take us there. Let us recommit ourselves to inspiring students, just as astronauts like Dottie do each day, to study science, math, engineering, and technology in pursuit of innovation in space and here on Earth."*

- April 20, 2010

Dr. Douglas Lowy & Dr. John Schiller  
National Institutes of Health

June 4, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I would like to continue what I began last month by honoring the contribution of our federal employees.

On May 4, I came to the floor to discuss the importance of recognizing the hard work and dedicated service of our federal employees. This is especially important because of our recovery efforts during these challenging economic times. The programs we enact will be carried out by a federal workforce that requires the people's confidence. I know how industrious and trustworthy our civil servants are. The public needs to know it too.

As I said then, we also need to encourage more of our graduates to enter careers in public service. America is blessed with so many enthusiastic and entrepreneurial citizens. We need them to lend their talents. We need their ideas, their creative minds. That is why I have made it a priority to honor excellent public servants and call attention to what federal employees can – and do – accomplish.

In my previous remarks, I promised to highlight some of our excellent public servants from this desk every so often. In keeping with my promise, I rise today to speak about two federal employees whose achievements are particularly relevant to our work here this session: the current state of our health care system.

As many know, cervical cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in women worldwide. It takes the lives of almost a quarter million women each year. Here in America, nearly eleven thousand women are diagnosed annually.

What distinguishes cervical cancer from most other cancers is its cause. While many cancers are linked to a genetic predisposition for abnormal cell growth, nearly all cases of cervical cancer result from viral infections. The majority of these infections come from exposure to the human papillomavirus – or HPV. HPV is the most common sexually transmitted disease affecting Americans.

When Dr. Douglas Lowy and Dr. John Schiller began studying HPV, little did they know that their twenty-year partnership as researchers would lead to the development of a vaccine.

Working at the National Institutes of Health's National Cancer Institute Center for Cancer Research, the two discovered that previous attempts at creating a vaccine had failed because a genetic mutation existed in the virus, making it difficult for the body to produce antibodies against it.

Once Drs. Lowy and Schiller made this finding, they worked to create a modified version of the HPV without the mutation. This development was instrumental in the creation, a few years ago, of a vaccine that will prevent the vast majority of cervical cancer cases from developing.

Because over eighty percent of those who develop cervical cancer cases live in developing nations, Drs. Lowy and Schiller have been working with the World Health Organization to make the HPV vaccine available to women around the world. In recognition of their achievement, the two men jointly were awarded the 2007 Service to America Federal Employee of the Year medal.

Today, women and girls ages nine through twenty-six have the ability to be vaccinated against developing cervical cancer.

Once again, I call on my fellow senators to join me in honoring Drs. Lowy and Schiller and all federal employees who have distinguished themselves in their service to our nation.

Dr. Deborah Jin  
JILA-NIST Joint Institute

July 23, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I have often spoken about the need to invest in technology and innovation. We cannot afford to fall behind in this area after leading the world in science research and discovery for half a century.

Since I began coming to the floor to talk about great federal employees, I have honored individuals who have made significant contributions in the areas of engineering, medicine, defense, housing assistance, land conservation, and international aid. The list of fields benefiting from the work of our federal employees is lengthy.

Another such area is physics. At a time when our planet faces resource scarcity and higher energy costs, the work of physicists at federal research institutions remains an important investment in our future security and prosperity.

Dr. Deborah Jin is one of these outstanding federal employees pioneering advances in the field of physics. She serves as a research team-leader at the JILA-National Institute of Standards and Technology joint institute in Boulder, Colorado.

Deborah's team created a new form of matter, a major discovery in the race toward superconductivity. Superconductivity, or using extremely low temperatures to move electrons through a magnetic field, can potentially lead to breakthroughs in energy efficiency and computing. Her work will likely improve the lives of hundreds of millions.

This achievement was far from easy. To create a new form of matter, Deborah and her team needed to get particles called fermions to join together in pairs. Unfortunately, fermions have a natural tendency to repel each other.

Deborah discovered that fermions will pair up when exposed to certain gasses at more than 450 degrees below zero. This exciting advance takes us one giant step closer to understanding superconductivity.

The uses of this technology could include faster computers and cell phones, smaller microchips and more efficient home appliances. Potentially, superconductivity could eliminate the ten percent of energy lost in transfer from power plants to homes and businesses.



Deborah and her colleagues exemplify the spirit of ingenuity and determination that has always characterized Americans working in scientific research. They had been racing against six other teams from laboratories around the world, and they were the first to reach this milestone.

It is unlikely that we will be able to appreciate the full extent of this breakthrough for many years, and future generations may not remember those who worked so hard to achieve it. But, like all of those who work in public service, Deborah knows that she and her team have made a difference – that the impact of their findings will be felt in every subsequent discovery on the path to making superconductors a reality.

I call on my fellow Senators and on all Americans to join me in honoring the service of Dr. Deborah Jin, her colleagues at the joint institute in Boulder, and all federal employees working on scientific research.

They are the unsung heroes of America's global leadership in science and technology.

Orlando Figueroa  
National Aeronautic and Space Administration

September 16, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to recognize the service of one of America's great federal employees.

Last week, I spoke about an outstanding public servant who refused to give up when she was faced with a life-changing trauma. My friend, Vice President Biden, says that America's greatest attribute is that when it gets knocked down, it gets right back up again.

Perseverance is one of our national strengths. It has seen us through lean years and times of war. It has also seen us through setbacks in our march of science and discovery.

In one such setback, a few years ago, NASA experienced a string of failures to land an exploratory probe on Mars. After the inspirational voyages of Viking One and Two, which landed on the red planet in the 1970's, NASA did not send spacecraft to the surface of Mars for twenty years.

After a brief but successful return in 1997 by the Mars Pathfinder, NASA prepared a series of missions aimed at exploring the Martian surface and laying the groundwork for a future astronaut mission.

The enthusiasm at NASA and in our nation's scientific community quickly turned to disappointment, as two consecutive missions failed to reach their destination.

Some of my colleagues may remember how frustrating it was to learn that one craft burned up in Mars' atmosphere because a contractor measured in English units instead of the metric system used by NASA.

When Orlando Figueroa took charge of NASA's Mars Exploration Rover project, in 2001, he set out to change the mood. Optimism and excitement had long been the driving force behind NASA's successes, and Orlando knew that, despite recent setbacks, NASA could once again achieve and inspire.

Less than three years later, under Orlando's leadership, NASA's Mars Exploration Rover project successfully landed some of the most advanced technology ever created onto the

Martian surface. He pushed his team to look forward, not backward, and Orlando's leadership was critical as the team faced challenges in advance of a rapidly-approaching launch date.

The Mars Exploration Rovers – called Spirit and Opportunity – successfully landed on opposite ends of Mars in January 2004 after a six-month journey. Together, they traversed several miles of the planet's surface and captured over 100,000 high resolution photographs for use by scientists studying the Martian climate and soil.

The tests conducted by Spirit and Opportunity have brought our researchers closer to finding evidence of water – and possibly past life – on our neighboring planet. The Mars Exploration Rover project also reignited the imaginations of countless students.

I have spoken a number of times already about the importance of supporting education in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – or “STEM.” The success of Orlando and his team at NASA contributes greatly to our efforts to renew interest in space exploration and scientific discovery among our nation's youth. It was this same enthusiasm that first led us to orbit the Earth and reach the Moon.

Orlando exemplifies the kind of perseverance endemic to America's civil servants. He and his team demonstrated once again that our nation, when we get knocked down, can get back up and accomplish any task we set for ourselves. It was for this reason that Orlando was awarded the Service to America – Federal Employee of the Year medal in 2005.

I hope that all the members of this body will join me in recognizing the important contribution made by Orlando Figueroa and all of the hard-working employees of NASA.

Dr. William Phillips  
National Institute of Standards and Technology

December 16, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize one of America's great federal employees.

Last week, in Stockholm and Oslo, the 2009 Nobel laureates accepted their prizes. I am particularly proud that eleven of this year's thirteen prizes were won by Americans. This is a reminder of our Nation's global leadership in science, medicine, economics, and peacemaking.

My honoree today holds the distinction of having been the first federal employee to win a Nobel Prize in Physics for work performed while serving the public.

Our federal workforce is composed of citizens who are both highly educated and incredibly motivated. Dr. William Phillips is the perfect example.

A native Pennsylvanian, William learned the importance of public service and hard work from a young age. His mother, an immigrant from Italy, and his father, a descendent of American revolutionaries, were the first in their families to attend college. They both pursued careers as social workers in Pennsylvania's coal-mining region. William, along with his brother and sister, grew up in a home where reading and education were emphasized.

As a boy, William fell in love with science, and he tinkered with model rockets and chemical compounds in the basement of his family's home. While attending Juniata College in the 1960s, William delved into physics research. He spent a semester at Argonne National Laboratory and, after graduation, pursued his doctorate at M.I.T.

During his time at M.I.T., the field of laser-cooling was just heating up, and William wrote his thesis on the collisions of atoms using this new technology.

In 1978, William began working at what is today the National Institute for Standards and Technology - or "NIST" - at the Department of Commerce. At NIST, he pursued further research into laser-cooling, and his discoveries have helped open up a new field of atomic research and expand our knowledge of physics. His findings have found important application in precision time-keeping, which is important for both private industry and for national security.

In 1997, William received the Nobel Prize for Physics along with two other scientists. One of his fellow-laureates that year was Dr. Steven Chu, who now serves as Secretary of Energy.

After winning his Nobel Prize, William made a commitment to using his fame to promote both science education and public service. He regularly speaks to student groups, and he serves as a mentor to graduate students in his field.

William won the prestigious Arthur S. Flemming Award for Public Service in 1987, and he was honored by the Partnership for Public Service with its 2006 Service to America Medal for Career Achievement.

He and his wife, Jane, live in Gaithersburg, Maryland, and are active in their community and church. Today, after a three-decade federal career, William continues to work at NIST as the leader of its Laser-Cooling and Trapping Group.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. William Phillips and all those who work at the National Institute of Standards and Technology for their dedicated service and important contribution to our national life.

They keep us at the forefront of science and human discovery.

Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger  
National Aeronautic and Space Administration

April 20, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to speak once more about our Nation's great federal employees.

Forty-nine years ago, President Kennedy stood before Congress and offered a bold profession of his faith in American innovation. Convening a special, joint session to share with the American people his plans for economic recovery and global leadership, President Kennedy challenged us to reach the moon in nine years.

He reminded us that leading the way in exploring space was central to leading a vibrant innovation economy. That the causes of economic recovery and national security would benefit from investing in a moon-shot. That the newly free around the world, caught between East and West, would draw inspiration from such a difficult mission undertaken by a free people.

He challenged us to reach the moon in nine years. We made it there in eight. Kennedy's call echoed a timeless adage: "Ad Astra Per Aspera." To the stars through rough times.

When we are faced with difficult challenges, we look for inspiration beyond the bounds of our farthest frontier. We can choose, despite uncertainty, to be forward-looking and set lofty goals. That, more than anything, is the mission of those great federal employees who work at the National Aeronautic and Space Administration - NASA.

Mr. President, I was among those called to the study of engineering in the late 1950s during the years of Sputnik and the start of the space race. We benefitted not only from the amount of investment the government was making in STEM fields but also by the strong sense of purpose the space program inspired in all of us.

America's reach into space is intricately linked with our need to train the next generation of scientists, engineers, technologists, and mathematicians who will drive our twenty-first century innovation economy. That is why I have chosen this week to honor a great federal employee from NASA who spent the last two weeks orbiting the Earth on STS-131 and has dedicated her career to promoting STEM education.

Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger is one of NASA's new Educator Astronauts. A native of Fort Collins, Colorado, Dottie – as she is called – took an unusual path to space.

As a child, Dottie was always fascinated with astronomy and space exploration. When she narrowly lost a contest to win a free trip to Space Camp, her parents saved up enough money for her to go. It turned out to be an excellent investment, not only in their daughter's future but also in the many students Dottie has inspired.

Dottie pursued her love of science at Whitman College, where she majored in geology. She began teaching earth science and astronomy at Hudson's Bay High School in Vancouver, Washington, in 1999, and in her five years there as a science teacher, she won awards for achievement. An avid marathon runner, Dottie also coached the school's cross-country team.

In 2003, one of her students asked a question that would change her life. The student curiously asked "how do astronauts use the bathroom in space?" When Dottie went online to research the answer for her student, she discovered on NASA's website a recruitment call for teachers to join the space program. She jumped at the chance, though it was a long-shot. Over 8,000 teachers applied.

Dottie was one of three who made it and is currently NASA's youngest active astronaut. She joined NASA in 2004 and began the rigorous, two-year Astronaut Candidate Training. Dottie learned how to fly jets and operate complex space shuttle and International Space Station systems. She undertook scientific and technical briefings, engaged in physiological training, and practiced water and wilderness survival skills.

As an Educator Astronaut, Dottie works with NASA's Education program, helping to develop new ways to bring space and STEM subjects into the classroom and inspiring girls and boys alike to follow in her footsteps by studying science.

When she is not training to be a mission specialist on the shuttle, running a marathon, or singing lead vocals for an astronaut band, Dottie is also inspiring her own daughter. She and her husband, Jason, who is a history teacher, have taught their three-year-old daughter, Cambria, how to sing "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star" and other songs about the sun and the moon.

On April 5, Dottie and the rest of the crew of Discovery's STS-131 mission lifted off from Cape Canaveral for a two-week trip to the International Space Station. Dottie's primary tasks were overseeing the transition of the station's computers to a new Ethernet network and orchestrating the space walks conducted by two of her colleagues. She also recorded a video to help promote robotics, science, and engineering.

Dottie sees her role as a teacher for all, helping to make science exciting for adults and children alike. She and her husband even built a telescope that they brought on summer vacation, and wherever they stopped they would encourage people to look through it at objects like Jupiter or the moon.

She said, "Wherever we go out in our solar system, from a teaching standpoint, I really hope that students are engaged in learning math and science. We should always try to be a leader in this."

Mr. President, America's astronauts – like Dottie – carry out important work with far-reaching impact.

Once again we find ourselves as a Nation in difficult times, just as we were when President Kennedy challenged us to look skyward. Just last week, President Obama laid out his vision for the future of American space exploration. No matter what their next mission, it will be carried out by NASA employees. The outstanding public servants at NASA give flight to our dreams and remind us that, in America, when we will it, there is no impediment to grand achievement.

*"Ad Astra Per Aspera."* Let us look once more, in these rough times, to the stars – to the limits of space and those who would take us there. Let us recommit ourselves to inspiring students, just as astronauts like Dottie do each day, to study science, math, engineering, and technology in pursuit of innovation in space and here on Earth.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dorothy Metcalf-Lindenburger and her crewmates from STS-131 for their hard work and contribution. We welcome them home. They are all truly great federal employees.



Dr. Regan Murray  
Environmental Protection Agency

June 23, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to recognize another of our Nation's great federal employees.

Americans continue to watch closely the efforts in the Gulf of Mexico to clean up the worst oil spill in our Nation's history. That spill has been a reminder to all of us just how important clean water is for wildlife, businesses, and our food supply.

The federal employee I have chosen to honor today designed innovative software to identify risks and solutions to possible attacks against our Nation's water supply.

Dr. Regan Murray is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio, and she holds a bachelor's degree from Kalamazoo College and a Ph.D. in Applied Mathematics from the University of Arizona. After completing her doctorate, she worked in the private sector but soon realized that she wanted to make a difference by serving her country.

Then came the attacks of September 11. Shortly after that tragic day, Regan started working for the Environmental Protection Agency as a Mathematical Statistician. Looking back at her decision to pursue public service, Regan said: "I wanted to do more meaningful work that directly impacted people's lives."

Regan has been instrumental in leading the development team for new software that identifies security vulnerabilities in our water supply and helps devise solutions to make it safer. One of these programs, TEVA-SPOT, helps find the best locations in water utility distribution systems in which to install sensors. Another, called CANARY, is a real-time data analysis program to monitor the sensors and identify contaminants.

Regan attributes her success to her strong background in mathematics. She has said, "Math is the language of science, which is perfect when leading an interdisciplinary group of researchers."

Mr. President, I have spoken often about the need for more of our students, especially women, to consider careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – or STEM. Regan is a wonderful example of how someone who studies mathematics can make a real and important difference.

Her story, though, does not end with her success in developing these software programs. Regan also worked hard to build and maintain important relationship with water utilities in order to ensure that these programs would be put to use.

Furthermore, despite her long hours at work for the agency, Regan co-founded a non-profit that focuses on improving the lives of children affected by HIV/AIDS and poverty in Africa. She visits Zambia annually and has raised thousands of dollars to benefit schools there.

Mr. President, outstanding government employees like Dr. Regan Murray are making a difference each day. So many of them also serve as volunteers in their communities and around the world.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Regan Murray and all those working at the Environmental Protection Agency for their hard work and dedicated service on behalf of the American people. They are all truly great federal employees.

# The 2009 Service to America Medals

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*"These nine exemplary federal employees represent a number of agencies and hail from diverse backgrounds. Together, they form a snapshot of the finest civil service in history."*

- September 24, 2009

## The 2009 Service to America Medals

September 24, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to honor America's great federal employees.

When I began my Great Federal Employees initiative in May, I did so by sharing the stories of some outstanding public servants who in past years had won Service to America medals. Last night, at its eighth annual awards gala, the Partnership for Public Service announced its 2009 Service to America Medal winners. These nine exemplary federal employees represent a number of agencies and hail from diverse backgrounds. Together, they form a snapshot of the finest civil service in history.

When I spoke in May about what makes our federal workforce so excellent, I said that there are several qualities our civil servants embody. First and foremost, they demonstrate great citizenship by choosing careers in the public sector. Second, they are industrious and hard-working in the face of often difficult and challenging tasks. Our federal employees take risks both to their safety and to their careers. They persevere even when faced with setbacks or with the knowledge that the effects of their work may not be felt for years to come. Our public servants exhibit great intellect and bring to their jobs many advanced skills and specialized knowledge.

I am glad that there are awards like the Service to America Medals to recognize the unsung heroes who help keep America moving ever forward. This is what I have tried to do each week by speaking about great public servants. This year's Service to America medalists can be well described by the five attributes I just listed.

Dr. Janet Kemp, who won this year's Federal Employee of the Year Medal, exemplified the value of outstanding citizenship when she organized a national suicide prevention hotline for veterans. As National Director for the VA's Suicide Prevention Program, Janet oversaw the creation of the hotline to help combat veteran suicide, which has increased significantly in recent years. Since 2005, when she was asked to spearhead this program, Janet's initiative has rescued over 3,000 veterans and assisted them in finding help.

An important aspect of citizenship is a commitment to protecting one's community from harm. Ben Fisherow was awarded the 2009 Justice and Law Enforcement Medal for his work to prevent air pollution. As an experienced litigator with the Department of Justice's Environment and Natural Resources Division, Ben has spent over twenty years enforcing key provisions of

the Clean Air Act and taking legal action against utilities that violate anti-pollution mandates. In one case alone, Ben secured a settlement that prevented the release of over 800,000 tons of air pollutants annually.

Our federal employees are hard working, and this year's Citizens Services Medal winner proves it. Michael German, of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, has been working tirelessly to combat homelessness in America. The Interagency Council on Homelessness, which he leads, coordinates with over 850 state and local officials nationwide on efforts to help the homeless obtain medical care and permanent housing. Their work has led to a thirty percent reduction in the chronically homeless between 2005 and 2007.

Another example of our civil servants' industriousness can be found in Allan Comp. Allan won the 2009 Environment Medal for his work at the Department of the Interior's Office of Surface Mining. He created the Appalachian Coal Country Watershed Team, a partnership between his office and VISTA volunteers who help local citizens and community groups organize clean-up projects and monitor water quality. His program was so successful that it was recently expanded to the American West. Today, joint Office of Surface-Mining and VISTA teams are at work protecting and empowering local communities in Colorado, New Mexico, and Montana.

Clare Rowley is an Economic Analyst for the FDIC. She won the Call to Service Medal for helping to implement the FDIC's mortgage modification program, which helped thousands of families stay in their homes after the collapse of subprime mortgages. In February, Clare, who is only twenty-five years old, found herself sitting in a high-level meeting with regulators, bankers, and Obama Administration officials on the foreclosure crisis. Despite feeling somewhat intimidated because of her age and junior position, Clare spoke up and offered important ideas that eventually made their way into the Treasury Department's mortgage crisis recovery plan. Now, Clare is one of those instrumental in carrying out the plan.

A risk-taker, who won this year's National Security and International Affairs Medal, serves as the Director of the USAID's Office of Economic Growth in Pakistan. In July, I spoke about a USAID employee who was gunned-down by extremists while posted in the Sudan. For Amy Meyer, who performs similar work in Pakistan, the danger is very real. Nonetheless, she arrived in the country in 2006 and began working with local women to create dairy cooperatives. Starting with just a staff of two and little funding, Amy now oversees a \$200 million budget and several successful economic empowerment programs. She even teaches yoga on Pakistani television and has spent much of her personal time dispensing advice to local women in their homes.

The winner of the 2009 Career Achievement Medal knows the meaning of perseverance. Dr. Thomas Waldmann has been a medical researcher at the National Institutes of Health for over

fifty years. Currently, Tom is Chief of the NIH National Cancer Institute's Metabolism Branch, and the focus of his career has been researching disorders in which the body attacks its own cells. His work has led to treatments to once-fatal varieties of lymphoma, leukemia, and multiple sclerosis. Tom also co-discovered a type of molecule that may lead to advances in the fight against AIDS and cancer. But his successes did not happen overnight. His achievements were the work of a lifetime, and the full impact of Tom's discoveries will not be known for years.

Similarly, Dr. Patricia Guerry has demonstrated great resolve while researching an elusive vaccine. Now serving as Chief of the Naval Medical Research Center's Molecular Biology and Biochemistry Branch, she has spent nearly thirty years studying a microbe that causes food poisoning. Researchers discovered that the most common microbe involved in food-borne illnesses is *Campylobacter*. In the mid-1980's, after several years of unsuccessfully attempting to find a vaccine, many microbiologists turned their attention elsewhere. Patricia, however, never gave up. Today, she and her team of researchers are nearing their goal, and their vaccine is now in the testing phase. She persevered, and our troops stationed abroad as well as tens of millions in the developing world will likely soon benefit from a vaccine.

This year's Homeland Security Medal was shared by a pair of CIA employees who showed great intellect in solving a critical problem. In 2005, the Office of the Director of National Intelligence gave Sean Dennehy and Don Burke the task of improving information-sharing across the intelligence community. Lack of communication between the intelligence agencies had been a serious impediment to preventing the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks. To fix this, Sean and Don created an online system called "Intellipedia," modeled after the popular Wikipedia website. Intellipedia enables analysts from different agencies to contribute information to subject pages and open cases. Today, Intellipedia has grown to nearly a million pages, and it has helped prevent threats to the Beijing Olympics, analyze IED patterns in Iraq, and study the 2008 Mumbai terror attacks.

All of these outstanding public servants display great humility. Even with such accomplishments, modesty is their common response.

Mr. President, I want to congratulate the Partnership for Public Service on their work to award the Service to America Medals. The winners were selected by a blue ribbon panel of leaders from both the public and private sectors, of which our colleague from Mississippi, Senator *Thad Cochran*, is a member.

I hope the rest of my colleagues will join me in congratulating all of this year's Service to America winners on receiving their medals. We thank them, and all federal employees, for their service to our nation.

# Protecting Land, Water, and the Environment

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*"The men and women who protect our National Park System and watch over the safety of its visitors come from diverse backgrounds, yet they share a dedication to public service and an abiding love for the land we all so cherish. The parks they administer on our behalf showcase the diversity of our country's splendid natural geography. From Yellowstone to the Shenandoah, from the Gates of the Arctic to the Great Smoky Mountains, these parks provide a refuge for wildlife and preserve our natural and cultural heritage."*

- May 25, 2010

Pearlie Reed  
Department of Agriculture

August 6, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to speak about one of our Great Federal Employees.

Whenever I enter this chamber, I cannot help but admire the inspirational works of art that adorn it. Above the main entrances rest marble reliefs depicting the three virtues of Courage, Wisdom, and Patriotism. Our federal employees embody all three of these qualities, though my focus today will be on patriotism.

The marble relief representing patriotism, which sits atop the lintel of the door to my right, shows a man setting aside his plow to take up the sword. This image recalls the parallel stories of Lucius Cincinnatus and George Washington, two farmer-citizens who set aside their daily work in order to defend the people's liberty.

In the history of democracy, the sword and plow have come to symbolize this dichotomy. Traditionally, the sword features most prominently as the metaphor for patriotism. However, Mr. President, I would argue that the plow is just as much a symbol of patriotism as the sword.

The plow represents a citizen's daily contribution to society over the course of many years. The highlight of the Cincinnatus story, from which our revolutionary forbearers drew inspiration, is that he returned without fanfare to his plow when the war was finished.

The great statesman Adlai Stevenson once said that "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime."

I think it is fitting to speak about patriotism as symbolized by a plow, because the federal employee I wish to recognize this week has worked at the Department of Agriculture for over thirty-five years.

Pearlie Reed was raised on a farm in the rural town of Heth, Arkansas, where he was the ninth of eighteen children. He worked hard to attend the state university in Pine Bluff, which was especially challenging for an African-American man in the South during the struggles of the Civil Rights Movement. Nonetheless, Pearlie received his degree, and he joined the USDA in 1968 as a student-intern for the Soil Conservation Service.



In the years that followed, Pearlie rose steadily in the Soil and Conservation Service from an entry-level soil conservator to District Conservationist, to Deputy State Conservationist, and he was eventually appointed as the State Conservationist for Maryland in 1985. He served in that position for four years, after which he became the State Conservationist for California.

As his career advanced, Pearlie also received a Master's Degree in Public Administration from the American University. The Soil and Conservation Service was eventually transformed into the Natural Resources Conservation Service - or "NRCS." From 1994 to 1998, Pearlie served as Associate Chief, and in his last year in that job also served as Acting Assistant Secretary of Agriculture for Administration.

In 1998, Pearlie was promoted to Chief of the NRCS, and he held that position until 2002, when he was named Regional Conservationist for the Western U.S. In that role, Pearlie was in charge of all natural resource conservation efforts by the federal government in ten states and the Pacific Basin area.

Pearlie has said that one of the proudest moments in his career came when he was asked to lead the Agriculture Department's task force on civil rights in the 1990's. He led a team that issued a report containing thirty-seven recommendations on how to ensure that the Department is a welcoming place for minorities. Pearlie briefed President Clinton personally, and the President issued an order that all thirty-seven of his recommendations be implemented.

Pearlie retired from the USDA in 2003, but just this year Secretary Vilsack called him out of retirement and asked President Obama to appoint him as Assistant Secretary for Administration - the position he briefly held in an acting capacity ten years ago. Pearlie was confirmed by the Senate on May 12, and he is now back at work for the farmers and ranchers of America.

One of his former colleagues said once that "If you look up the term 'public service' in the dictionary, you'd likely see a picture of Pearlie Reed there next to it." Over the course of his long career, Pearlie has received the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, the George Washington Carver Public Service Hall of Fame Award, and the USDA Silver Plow Honor Award, among others. Pearlie exemplifies the kind of patriotism Stevenson spoke about - the patriotism of steady work and perseverance represented by Cincinnatus' plow.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Pearlie Reed's distinguished service and that of all federal employees working in agricultural development, resource conservation, and rural advancement.

Stephen Andersen  
Environmental Protection Agency

November 3, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once more to honor the service of one our country's Great Federal Employees.

Today, during these uncertain times, the American people face many challenges. One of them we share in common with all people throughout the world. What I speak of, Mr. President, is the threat posed by climate change.

Just this morning, in a special joint-session, we heard from German Chancellor Angela Merkel on the importance of working together internationally to address climate change. We have come so far in the past three decades on this issue, but much more will need to be done. So much depends on our ability to address this problem, including the long-term stability of our economy and our national security.

Since its creation in 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency has been at the forefront of reversing climate change. This week's Great Federal Employee not only spent over twenty years at the agency. He is also someone whom we can thank for his leadership in implementing a landmark agreement that has already helped slow down climate change.

When Dr. Stephen Andersen first came to the EPA in 1986 he already had over a decade of experience in the field of climate and ozone protection. During his first year, as part of the EPA's Stratospheric Protection Team, he worked with Soviet scientists to negotiate a joint effort to map the ozone by satellite. This was the first-ever U.S.-Soviet joint mission in space.

The following year saw the adoption of the Montreal Protocol of 1987. This crucial international agreement led to dramatic reductions in the chemicals that contribute to ozone depletion. Stephen began serving as co-chair of the Montreal Protocol Technology and Economic Assessment Panel in 1988. He worked tirelessly to convince hundreds of military and industrial experts to phase-out the use of ozone depleting chemicals on a voluntary basis.

Over the course of twenty years, the Montreal Protocol was so successful that it helped prevent annual emissions of 11 billion – that's billion with a "B" – metric tons of carbon-dioxide. According to a crucial study by a team of environmental scientists that Stephen himself led, the Montreal Protocol may have delayed the impact of climate change by seven to twelve years.

And that doesn't even count the effects of other reductions made as a result of the treaty's influence.

Stephen led an effort a few years ago to encourage several of the world's highest emitting nations to strengthen the original treaty. His leadership led to nine countries agreeing to speed up the elimination of hydroflourocarbons.

Today, Stephen continues to work on the science of combating climate change. He has focused much of his energy on helping to create voluntary partnerships between the EPA and the business community in order to promote green practices. Stephen won a Service to America Medal last year for his long and distinguished career as an outstanding public servant.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Stephen Andersen's service and that of all the dedicated employees of the Environmental Protection Agency. I know that, as we continue making progress on this front, they will play an important role in America's global environmental leadership.

Steve Shackleton  
National Park Service

May 25, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize one of our nation's great federal employees.

This weekend, Americans will be observing Memorial Day, which also marks the unofficial start of summer. It is a tradition for families to gather at picnics and spend time together outdoors. Many will be visiting parks, trails, and historical sites administered by the National Park Service.

Every year, when Americans travel to our national parks – as many will do this weekend – they often take for granted the outstanding work performed by National Park Service rangers. The men and women who protect our National Park System and watch over the safety of its visitors come from diverse backgrounds, yet they share a dedication to public service and an abiding love for the land we all so cherish.

The parks they administer on our behalf showcase the diversity of our country's splendid natural geography. From Yellowstone to the Shenandoah, from the Gates of the Arctic to the Great Smoky Mountains, these parks provide a refuge for wildlife and preserve our natural and cultural heritage.

The experience of visiting these parks is often awe-inspiring. Surely all who have ever stood at the rim of the Grand Canyon or at the foot of a giant California Redwood felt their majesty and the stirrings of tranquility they inspire. These parks, trails, and historic sites are an excellent place to take children, where they can learn firsthand about nature and the importance of conservation.

This is why I have been working with Senator Carper to establish the First State National Historical Park in Delaware, which would preserve sites important to our state's colonial history. Currently, Delaware is the only state without a National Park.

Indeed, our great National Parks, with their pristine natural beauty and vast expanses of solitude, have stirred their souls of millions. We have so much to learn from these parks, and so much to experience. True remain the words from Shakespeare, who wrote of the wilderness that in it we may "find tongues in trees, books in running brooks, sermons in stones, and good in every thing."

Today, as my Great Federal Employee of the week, I have chosen to honor one of the dedicated rangers who keep visitors to our national parks safe, informed, and able to experience the parks' wonders.

Steve Shackleton has been a National Park ranger for over a quarter-century. He began his service in the 1980s at the Grand Teton National Park in Wyoming, where he worked in the areas of search and rescue, emergency medicine, and law enforcement. During that time, he spent six summers fighting fires in California's Sierra National Forest.

Steve spent fourteen years in Hawaii and Alaska working on resource protection management. He holds bachelor's and master's of science degrees in Criminology from California State University in Fresno and a master's of public administration from the University of Alaska, Anchorage.

In the late 1990s, Steve came to Washington, where he spent three years working in the National Park Service's legislative office and undertaking a fellowship right here in the United States Senate. Afterward, Steve became the Superintendent of the Pinnacles National Monument in California's central coast region. From 2004-2005, he participated in the OPM's Federal Senior Executive Candidate Development Program, which included study at Harvard's Kennedy School of Government and Stanford's Graduate School of Business.

For the last seven years, Steve served as the Chief Ranger at Yosemite National Park. In that role, he directed the park's programs in law enforcement, wilderness management, fire prevention, search and rescue, and remote medicine. This February, Steve was asked to return to Washington, where he now serves as the National Park Service's Associate Director for Visitors and Resource Protection.

Steve's love of nature and America's natural heritage can be traced to his father, Lee Shackleton, who himself had a long career as a park ranger. Steve and his wife, Jane, have passed along this tradition of caring for nature to their daughter, Dana, who is studying veterinary medicine at the University of California, Davis.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the great work of Steve Shackleton and all of America's National Park rangers. This summer, they will continue to watch over the safety of visitors and serve as their guides to the splendor of our National Parks.

The men and women of the National Park Service are all truly great federal employees.

Dr. Eddie Bernard  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

July 13, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize one of our nation's great federal employees.

Mr. President, we here in Washington are in the midst of a summer heat wave. I know it is the same for millions of Americans across the country. This comes on the heels of a harsh winter, where the capital city endured heavy snowfall that shut down businesses and even certain government offices.

The powerful forces of nature continue to challenge us. Many Americans only notice weather at its extremes. The hardworking men and women of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – or “NOAA” – spend their careers making it easier for us to address nature's challenges.

This year is NOAA's fortieth anniversary. It was created in 1970 from three former agencies, and since that time NOAA employees have been at the forefront of weather prediction, oceanography, and fishery management.

Whenever someone turns on the television and sees an alert from the National Weather Service, that's NOAA at work. If you go to the Pacific coast and enjoy the beaches, you can feel safe knowing that NOAA's tsunami warning system stands at the ready. NOAA personnel are also leading the way to ensure the long-term sustainability of our coastal fisheries, so those who make their living from the sea can continue to do so for generations to come.

The great federal employee I am recognizing today won the 2008 Service to America Medal for Homeland Security for his work at NOAA helping to detect and warn against destructive tsunamis.

Dr. Eddie Bernard has served as Director of NOAA's Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory in Seattle, Washington, since 1982. One of the leading experts on tsunamis, he has published over eighty scientific articles and edited books on the phenomenon. For three years, Eddie directed the National Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii, and he was the founding Chairman of the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Steering Committee – a joint federal/state effort.

In addition to his work on tsunamis, as Director of the Pacific Marine Environmental Laboratory Eddie oversees a number of important oceanographic research programs, such as El Niño forecasts and studies of underwater volcanoes.

Eddie received his bachelor's degree in Physics from Lamar University, and he holds master's and doctoral degrees in Physical Oceanography from Texas A&M.

In order to protect our coastlines against damage from Pacific tsunamis, like the one that devastated the coasts of South Asia in 2004, Eddie led the development of the innovative "DART" system. As a tsunami wave moves under the ocean, DART, which stands for "Deep Ocean Assessment of Tsunamis," uses buoys to report data back to Tsunami Warning Centers.

It took years to perfect, and Eddie and his team had hoped to get close to a sixty percent accuracy rate in predicting the scope and intensity of incoming tsunamis. As it turns out, they were able to achieve over ninety percent accuracy with DART. Their system became the basis for the Tsunami Warning and Education Act, which passed the Congress in 2006. Eddie was instrumental in helping to draft that legislation, which strengthened tsunami detection, warning, and mitigation programs to ensure that we are prepared for even the worst-case scenario.

Mr. President, the work of NOAA employees is not often glamorous, but it saves lives, protects property, and helps prepare our coastal communities to meet the challenges of nature. My home state of Delaware is filled with coastal communities, and the work NOAA performs in a range of areas helps coastal states like Delaware in so many ways.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Dr. Eddie Bernard and all those at NOAA who continue to monitor the seas and skies on our behalf. They are all truly great federal employees.

# Public Diplomacy

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*“Political appointees make up an important constituency in our federal government. When a President requests their service, they often make real sacrifices to respond to that call, many moving far from home and taking pay cuts in order to do this important work.”*

- March 10, 2010



Evelyn Lieberman, Karen Hughes, & James Glassman  
Department of State

March 10, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. This afternoon, I will preside over a Foreign Relations Committee hearing on the future of U.S. public diplomacy. Never has public diplomacy been more important for promoting U.S. national security interests, especially in volatile regions and areas where we are engaged in counterinsurgency. In order to evaluate past achievements, successes, and challenges in public diplomacy, the Committee invited three former Under Secretaries of State for Public Diplomacy to testify on the matter earlier today. Given their wide breadth of experience, they will share their views about lessons learned from their tenure and their recommendations on tools and future strategy.

The three former under secretaries who are participating, Evelyn Lieberman, Karen Hughes, and James Glassman, promise to provide incredibly useful insights, and I am grateful they are able to be here today. Not only are they important voices on public diplomacy; they have also been dedicated public servants under both the Clinton and Bush administrations. That is why I am honoring them as my Great Federal Employees this week.

During their years of service as Under Secretaries of State for Public Diplomacy, they oversaw our State Department's efforts to promote American foreign policies abroad using tools such as educational exchanges, public affairs and embassy outreach, international broadcasting, and the establishment of American corners or centers. They did this through communications with international audiences, cultural programming, academic grants, and international visitor programs. Public diplomacy programs like the Fulbright Fellowship and Sports Envoy exchanges bring emerging leaders from foreign countries to visit the United States, promoting a cross-cultural exchange and contributing to sharing an American perspective with the world.

Although these three officials come from different sides of the aisle and each hold unique perspectives on America's public diplomacy, all share a love of country and dedication to service that called them to government service. I was honored to work with each of them in various capacities over the years, especially during my tenure on the Broadcasting Board of Governors, or BBG.

Evelyn Lieberman, a native of New York and graduate of SUNY Buffalo, first entered government service in 1988 as press secretary to my predecessor, then-Senator *Joe Biden*. In

those days, I was serving as his chief-of-staff, and I had the privilege of working with Evelyn early in her career.

In 1993, Evelyn moved over to the White House, where she served as an assistant to First Lady – and now Secretary of State – Hillary Rodham Clinton. Three years later, after serving also as Deputy White House Press Secretary, she was appointed Deputy Chief of Staff under Leon Panetta. In 1997, President Clinton appointed her as Director of Voice of America, and she served in that capacity for two years. During that time, I was a member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, which oversees Voice of America’s programming, and I was fortunate to work closely with Evelyn once more.

In 1999, President Clinton nominated Evelyn to serve as the State Department’s first Under Secretary for Public Diplomacy, and she was confirmed by the Senate. Her service in that role lasted until the beginning of the Bush Administration, in January 2001. Since 2002, Evelyn has continued her career in federal government, serving as the Director of Communications and Public Affairs for the Smithsonian Institution.

The second witness today is Karen Hughes, who was appointed by President Bush to this position after serving as Counselor in the White House from 2000 to 2002. A Texas native, she holds a bachelor’s degree from Southern Methodist University. Before embarking on a career in politics, Karen worked in broadcast journalism for seven years.

When she was appointed as Undersecretary for Public Diplomacy in 2005, Karen was given the rank of ambassador to underscore the importance of public diplomacy as an essential component of U.S. foreign policy. Karen implemented important changes, including the creation of a “rapid response” unit in her bureau at the Department of State.

Upon leaving State in 2007 to pursue work in the private sector, Karen told the BBC that her greatest achievement was “transforming public diplomacy and making it a national security priority central to everything we do in government,” which is a goal that I believe continues to this day. During her tenure as Under Secretary, she represented former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice in meetings of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and I had the opportunity to work with her on promoting a free press overseas.

When Karen Hughes left the State Department, President Bush nominated James Glassman to take her place. Jim, a Harvard graduate and prominent writer and journalist, was confirmed by the Senate in June 2008 as Under Secretary of Public Diplomacy. Having held senior roles at a number of leading news organizations, including the *New Republic*, the *Atlantic Monthly*, and *U.S. News and World Report*, he is also a former editor and owner of *Roll Call*.

Before joining the Bush Administration, Jim served as a fellow at the non-profit American Enterprise Institute for twelve years. In 2007, President Bush nominated him to be Chairman of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, and he served in that role until moving to the State Department several months later. I worked with Jim during my service on the Board, and I saw firsthand his dedication to promoting America's values and policies overseas. Since the Bush Administration left office, Jim has been working in the non-profit sector, and he was recently selected to lead a new public policy institute at the George W. Bush Presidential Library.

Mr. President, all three have worked as federal employees, and Evelyn Lieberman continues her government career to this day. Political appointees make up an important constituency in our federal government. When a President requests their service, they often make real sacrifices to respond to that call, many moving far from home and taking pay cuts in order to do this important work.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Evelyn Lieberman, Karen Hughes, and James Glassman for answering the call to serve and for their work on behalf of the American people.

# Conducting Diplomacy and Aiding Those Overseas



*"When the Founders added their signatures to the Declaration of Independence, they did so with faith in their fellow Americans--that the 56 names inked on that parchment were joined in spirit by millions of others in their own day and for generations to come. They knew that building a nation requires more than a handful of men. It entails the active participation of citizens from all walks of life.*

*"This is why, a decade later, when the Framers assembled in Philadelphia to draft our Constitution, they did so with an expectation that regular citizens would be the form and substance of our government. Indeed, they knew firsthand the value of service above self. This virtue would lead countless Americans who had fought for freedom to become the first generation of Federal employees."*

- July 7, 2009

Denise Johnson  
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

June 25, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, once again I rise to honor a federal employee whose service to our nation is exemplary. But before I do, I want to thank my distinguished colleague from Mississippi, Senator Cochran, for his statement of June 11. It is my great pleasure to join with him and other senators to recognize the enormous contribution to the security and prosperity of our country by those who work in the federal government.

Mr. President, last week I shared the story of a federal employee who spent his career working at Redstone Arsenal in Alabama. He helped design and test the advanced missile systems used by our military to defend our ideals overseas. This week, I wish to share the story of a federal employee who also works to advance our interests overseas –that of humanitarian good works. Both are vital to our global leadership.

I have spoken before about the groundbreaking medical research performed by federal employees at the National Institutes of Health. The advances in medicine and biotechnology pioneered by those working at NIH keep American health care the most innovative in the world.

Yet, making breakthroughs and developing treatments are only one part of how the federal government is helping to promote global health. One of our foreign policy and humanitarian priorities is to expand access to new medications and health technologies among those who live in the developing world.

The hardworking men and women of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are at the forefront of initiatives to bring lifesaving medicines to those in the greatest need. Foremost, the CDC monitors, prevents, and – if necessary – contains the outbreak of deadly diseases here in the United States, such as West Nile and Swine Flu. Part of this effort is a push to eradicate some of the most dangerous viruses throughout the world.

With the lens of Congress now focused on our health care system, so much has been said about its shortcomings. Yet, for all of the problems we face on this front, Americans are blessed with freedom from fear of diseases that afflicted previous generations.

When I was young, tens of thousands of children each year were stricken with polio. In the early part of the twentieth century, polio outbreaks occurred in the United States with deadly frequency. Parents used to keep their children at home and away from their peers. Many became paralyzed or had to make use of an iron lung.

We have all seen those famous images of President Franklin Roosevelt seated behind his desk in the Oval Office, signing New Deal programs into law and overseeing a world war against the enemies of liberty. But, at that time, so few Americans knew that, behind the desk, our President sat in a wheelchair, his legs paralyzed from his own battle with polio.

Today, in parts of Africa and South Asia, hundreds of children each year still develop polio. While children in developed nations routinely receive the Salk or Sabin vaccines, this is a luxury for rural villagers in places like India, Nigeria, Afghanistan, and Somalia.

The CDC has set a goal of vaccinating every child on Earth. Leading this charge over the past decade, Denise Johnson serves as the Acting Chief of the CDC's Polio Eradication Branch.

Before she was recruited to direct this project, Denise served for six years as the manager of the CDC's Family and Intimate Partner Violence Prevention program. In this role, she oversaw the promotion of non-violent, respectful relationships through community and social change initiatives. This was around the time that Congress passed the Violence Against Women Act, which was one of the proudest achievements of my friend and predecessor, Joe Biden, during his tenure in the Senate.

When asked why Denise was highly sought after to work on the polio project, one of her supervisors at the CDC said: "If you do a good job keeping women and children from being beaten, you can eradicate polio."

With Denise at the helm, the Polio Eradication Branch has been working in close concert with the World Health Organization and UNICEF to promote immunization. In her first few years alone, Denise and her team helped immunize over half a billion – let me repeat that – half a billion children in ninety-three countries.

From her office in Atlanta, Denise oversees a staff of over forty professionals working overseas. Her effective leadership has proven to be a key factor in the program's success. Denise administers the purchase and distribution of over two hundred million doses of the oral polio vaccine – purchased for a mere sixty-three cents per dose – and routinely serves as a field consultant in polio hotspots around the world. In fact, Denise is in Kenya right now, taking the fight against polio straight to the front lines.

Twenty years ago, there were over 350,000 cases of polio in 125 countries, but today fewer than two thousand cases remain. Because of the diligent work performed by Denise and the rest of her team at the CDC's Polio Eradication Branch, it is only a matter of time before that disease no longer threatens the world's children.

Mr. President, Denise is just one of so many federal employees who have dedicated years of their lives to serving the greater good. She and her team are truly engaging in what President Obama has called "repairing the world." Their work saves lives and helps demonstrate our nation's commitment to humanitarian leadership in the global community.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Denise Johnson and her team for their outstanding work, as well as the important contributions made by all of our excellent public servants.

John Granville  
U.S. Agency for International Development

July 7, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to speak about the vital role our Federal employees play in keeping America safe, prosperous, and free.

Just days ago, on the Fourth of July, we celebrated the 233rd anniversary of our independence. For 233 years, ordinary Americans have chosen to give their energy, their time, and their talents in service to our government. Many have given their lives. All Federal employees, as I have said previously, are bound together by a shared sense of duty and willingness to sacrifice.

When the Founders added their signatures to the Declaration of Independence, they did so with faith in their fellow Americans--that the 56 names inked on that parchment were joined in spirit by millions of others in their own day and for generations to come. They knew that building a nation requires more than a handful of men. It entails the active participation of citizens from all walks of life.

This is why, a decade later, when the Framers assembled in Philadelphia to draft our Constitution, they did so with an expectation that regular citizens would be the form and substance of our government. Indeed, they knew firsthand the value of service above self. This virtue would lead countless Americans who had fought for freedom to become the first generation of Federal employees.

The Founders and Framers had good cause to predict such participation among citizens beyond their appointed role as electors and jurors. The classical history and writings that influenced them are filled with praise for the values of duty and sacrifice that inspire public service.

Many educated Americans in 1776 were familiar with the story of Horatius the Roman. When the armies of a tyrant approached the walls of Rome, the citizens of its infant republic were called to arms. Horatius ran across the last bridge spanning the Tiber River where he alone held off the enemy as his compatriots destroyed the bridge behind him. With this personal act of courage, he prevented the capture of Rome.

Horatius was not a professional soldier. He was neither an elected leader nor a man of high birth. But he defended with pride that title of honor greater than any other--citizen. He gave his life so that others could remain free.

His act is an example of the kind of sacrifices that ordinary citizens are willing to make when they know freedom is in jeopardy. Americans looked to classical figures like Horatius in



1776, when their own liberty was uncertain. It is this common willingness to risk safety and personal gain that sets apart a commonwealth of citizens from a nation of subjects. It is these same qualities that make our Federal employees so worthy of praise.

On the Fourth of July, I thought about ordinary Americans who choose to serve their country in often perilous situations. Many of them risk harm while defending the liberty and values that infuse our citizenship with meaning. As I have said before, our Federal employees exemplify the American value of service above self. Throughout our history, Federal employees have traveled to dangerous corners of the globe, in order to represent the American people abroad, promote peaceful international cooperation, and provide aid to those in need.

John Granville was one of those who felt called to serve his country, even if it meant traveling to places where his own safety was uncertain.

A native of Orchard Park, NY, near Buffalo, John studied at Fordham and Clark Universities before joining the Peace Corps. His service in the Corps took him to Cameroon, in West Africa, from 1997 to 1999. While there, he applied for and received a Fulbright fellowship to continue living in that country and conduct research on its society and development. John, committed to serving his country and helping others, then joined the Foreign Service.

He worked for the U.S. Agency for International Development--or USAID--in Kenya before heading to Sudan in 2005. It was a dangerous assignment. That year, the Sudanese Government signed a cease-fire to end a long civil war in that country's south. John's assignment was to distribute 75,000 radios to rural villagers. These radios could be powered by the Sun or by handcrank. With democratic elections approaching, these radios would give the local Sudanese access to uncensored international news broadcasts.

As a former member of the Broadcasting Board of Governors, I can attest to the importance of providing access to free and uncensored news. It is a vital part of developing democratic culture and press freedom. It also promotes hope and understanding, which help deter the spread of extremist views.

John worked with a dedicated team of USAID officials to distribute these radios and other aid to rural south Sudanese. One of his coworkers later said that John was "the glue" that held their group together and that he kept up their spirits throughout the mission.

On New Year's Day, 2008, John was gunned down by four militants who targeted his car for its diplomatic plates. He was only 33 years old.

His loved ones back home remembered him as an "unselfish humanitarian," a "consummate professional," and someone who "worked with energy and imagination." John was an active member of the St. John Vianney Church community, and he was a mentor who inspired others to follow in his footsteps by helping those in need.

John Granville believed in the importance of service as part of citizenship. He crossed the ocean and stood on the other side, like the Roman Horatius at the far end of the bridge, carrying out the people's work and risking his own safety in service to his Nation. He had told his

mother on several occasions that despite the danger of his work, he would not want to be doing anything else.

There are thousands of Foreign Service officers, USAID workers, and journalists and employees with the Broadcasting Board of Governors all over the globe. These dedicated men and women leave behind family, friends, and communities. Their careers often take them through dangerous parts of the world, where the threat from crime, disease, war, and terrorism is very real. All too frequently their sacrifices and achievements go unrecognized. On occasion, they make the ultimate sacrifice.

Because we just celebrated the Fourth of July, let me return for a moment to the founding generation. Those first Americans who sacrificed for liberty established more than our Republic. They left us with a democratic legacy that reminds us every day of our rights and our duties as equal citizens.

The descendents of those revolutionaries, when they designed and ornamented this magnificent Capitol, enshrined a powerful message. The paintings in the Capitol Rotunda, just steps from here, narrate the story of how America achieved its greatness. They tell not of the force of arms or the achievements of a powerful few. Rather, taken as a whole, these eight paintings celebrate the evolution of American citizenship.

The turning point in this narrative is highlighted by Trumbull's iconic portrayal of the drafting of the Declaration of Independence. But the last painting in the cycle is the most poignant and recalls the climactic movement in the development of our citizenship. Washington, at his height of popularity, willingly yields his power and authority back to the people by resigning his commission. With his sacrifice in that moment, the American people were truly free, and those who laid out this cycle of paintings did so to acclaim this birth of American citizenship.

They remind us that our citizenship is a pact between equals, that no American should ever rule arbitrarily over another. It is this notion of citizenship that governs the relationship between the American people and our Federal employees.

As a commonwealth of citizens, we entrust our fellow Americans who work in the Federal Government to perform that noble task so yearned for by the 56 men who wrote and signed the Declaration. They secure our unalienable rights by constituting a government deriving its "just powers from the consent of the governed." Their hard work and their sacrifices protect our lives, preserve our liberty, and enable all Americans to pursue happiness.

I call on my colleagues to join me in honoring and recognizing the immeasurable sacrifice made by John Granville and all civilian Federal employees who gave their lives in service to our Nation.

Their names will forever be inscribed on the eternal Declaration that continually secures our freedom.

Nicole Nelson-Jean  
Department of State

September 30, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to recognize the service of one of America's great federal employees.

In recent months, President Obama has spoken of his vision of a world free from the threat of nuclear weapons. While nuclear disarmament remains a long term project, there are important steps already being taken right now toward that goal. The public servant I will speak about today has already distinguished herself as a top-notch negotiator on nuclear proliferation issues for the Department of Energy.

When Nicole Nelson-Jean was just twenty-eight years old, she led a delegation of Energy Department negotiators in an effort to secure Russian nuclear materials in Siberia. Based out of our embassy in Tokyo, Nicole had to overcome the skepticism of her Russian counterparts, who were not accustomed to negotiating with someone her age. But she quickly won their respect and developed a working relationship that enabled them to move forward on technical assistance and create a joint training and service center in the Russian Arctic for securing nuclear material.

After this achievement, Nicole was made Director of the Department of Energy's Asia Office. She distinguished herself in that position for two years, also serving concurrently as Energy Attaché to our ambassador in Japan. In 2006, Nicole was tapped to head the Global Threat Reduction Initiative for North and South America, which runs projects in over ninety countries to remove radiological material from nuclear reactors and reconfigures them from processing weapons-grade highly-enriched uranium to those processing the type used for peaceful purposes.

Following her success in that role, Nicole was appointed to serve as Director of the U.S. Mission to the International Organizations in Vienna, Austria. While there, she helped secure passage of the IAEA's Nuclear Security Resolution, which is now the central international statute used to prevent nuclear terrorism.

When asked about her work as a public servant, Nicole said: "Personally, I don't think that there's anything more important than the national security of our country," and that "service is in my blood."

Earlier this summer, Nicole returned to the United States to begin a ten-month program at the National Defense University as a Counter-Terrorism Fellow. She is just one of countless federal employees who, even though they are highly-educated and experienced, continue to immerse themselves academically in their career fields.

Mr. President, as I have stated before from this desk, our federal employees combine great intellect and a passion for service. The result is a federal workforce that excels. Without Nicole and those like her, our government could not carry out the policies, such as nuclear arms control, that keep the American people safe and free.

I call on my fellow senators to join me in thanking Nicole Nelson-Jean and all the outstanding men and women of the Department of Energy for their contribution to our nation.

## Ambassador Anne Patterson

### Department of State

March 2, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise again today to recognize one of our Nation's great federal employees.

From the day of its creation as the first executive department in 1789, the State Department has carried out the important work of American diplomacy, pursuing peaceful relations between the United States and other nations. When our role as a world power grew in the late nineteenth century, our diplomats became peacemakers among nations. Since the end of World War Two, we heavily invested our time, treasure, and human capital in the preservation of global peace during a time wrought with potential for war and mass destruction.

Today, in the aftermath of the Cold War and the September 11 attacks, our State Department personnel – and our Foreign Service officers in particular – work tirelessly to promote the American values of liberty and international cooperation. Stationed in every region, they daily endure risks to their health and safety. They leave behind family and a familiar culture. These talented and dedicated men and women are the living embodiment of President Kennedy's declaration that, while we should never negotiate out of fear, we must never fear to negotiate.

Those in the Foreign Service must pass a rigorous examination and be prepared to serve at any of our 250 posts around the world. They have jobs as consular officers assisting Americans abroad, political or economic officers analyzing trends in foreign countries and promoting U.S. interests, management officers running our embassies, or public diplomacy officers who share the story of America with foreign audiences. The most senior and successful diplomats may become ambassadors, the public face of our Nation and the President's personal representatives abroad.

One distinguished ambassador, whose career exemplifies the work of our Foreign Service, is Anne Patterson. A native of Arkansas, Anne studied at Wellesley College and the University of North Carolina. She first joined the Foreign Service in 1973 as an economic officer. Her initial postings overseas included Saudi Arabia and the United Nations offices in Geneva, Switzerland. From 1991-1993, Anne served as the State Department's Director for Andean Countries and, later, was appointed Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs.

In 1997, Anne was nominated and confirmed as Ambassador to El Salvador, where she served for three years. She became our Ambassador to Colombia in 2000. While escorting the late Senator Paul Wellstone on a visit that year to a rural town, an explosive device was found nearby by local security forces. That incident underscores the reality of the many dangers our Foreign Service officers face while serving overseas.

Anne returned to Washington in 2003, where she served as Deputy Inspector General for the State Department. The following year, she was appointed Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York. After U.N. Ambassador John Danforth resigned in January 2005, Anne became Acting Ambassador, representing the United States at the United Nations. She continued to serve in the role for six months.

From 2005-2007, Anne led the State Department's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. In May 2007, after Ambassador Ryan Crocker left Islamabad to take up his post in Iraq, President Bush nominated Anne to serve as our Ambassador to Pakistan. She continues her work in Islamabad to this day, representing our Nation at a time of great importance for the U.S.-Pakistani relationship.

During the times I have had the honor of visiting her and our embassy officials in Pakistan, I have been impressed by her dedication to furthering American priorities in that country, to protecting our national security interests, and to managing our talented team on the ground.

The life of a Foreign Service officer is not easy. Anne, her husband, and her two sons and step-daughter can attest that Foreign Service families face many challenges during a career of living overseas and moving frequently. In addition, Foreign Service families must make significant sacrifices to serve in dangerous locales like Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iraq where there are restrictions on bringing spouses and children to post. These officers serve in the face of great hardship not for financial reward but for the satisfaction of serving the United States, protecting its interests, and promoting peace among nations.

Mr. President, I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing the enormous contribution made by Ambassador Anne Patterson and all those who serve in the Foreign Service and the State Department.

# Army Strong, Olympic Strong

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*"The values of Olympians are those of perseverance, integrity, teamwork, and national service. If this list of values sounds so familiar to many Americans, this is because they are the same values that motivate those federal employees who serve our Nation in civilian roles and in the military branches."*

- February 2, 2010

Jeremy Teela, Shauna Rohbock, & Heath Calhoun  
United States Army

February 2, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to speak once more about America's Great Federal Employees.

Next week, in Vancouver, the Twenty-First Olympic Winter Games will begin amid great fanfare and high hopes. Every four years, the world's top athletes in skiing, skating, hockey, and several other winter sports compete to win medals and to win hearts.

Olympic athletes push themselves to their limits not only to win personal or team glory but also to represent their nations on the world stage. A ticket to the Olympics is purchased with years of arduous training and a commitment to personal integrity and athletic fairness.

The values of Olympians are those of perseverance, integrity, teamwork, and national service. If this list of values sounds so familiar to many Americans, this is because they are the same values that motivate those federal employees who serve our Nation in civilian roles and in the military branches.

This week, in honor of the upcoming winter games, I have chosen to highlight three incredible American Olympians. They share these values, and all three of them chose to serve our Nation in the United States Army.

Jeremy Teela is an infantry sergeant. Originally from Anchorage, Alaska, Jeremy joined the Army in 1997. In addition to serving in the infantry, he participates in the Army's World Class Athlete Program. Jeremy is one of America's best in the sport of Biathlon.

Biathlon is a grueling race that begins with cross-country skiing and ends with precision rifle shooting. Jeremy is a seven-time national champion, and he was a member of the U.S. Olympic team in the 2002 Salt Lake games and the 2006 games in Torino. Jeremy will once again be competing in the Biathlon at this year's games in Vancouver. Last year, at the 2009 Whistler World Cup, which took place at the same venue, he won a bronze medal – the first American to medal in Biathlon in seventeen years.

Joining Jeremy in Vancouver will be Sergeant Shauna Rohbock of the Army National Guard. She is one of America's champion Bobsled drivers. A native of Orem, Utah, Shauna enlisted in 2000. Around that time, she began training in Bobsled in the hopes of making it to the



Olympics in Salt Lake City, just forty miles from her hometown. While she didn't make it to those games, Shauna made it to Torino four years later. There, she won the silver medal in Women's Bobsled.

Comparing the teamwork required to succeed in the Army to the kind necessary in Olympic bobsledding, Shauna said recently: "Just like any team or platoon, you're only as good as your weakest person. It takes two people to push the sled in a race. Bobsled drivers can't do this alone." This month Shauna will return to compete with Team USA in Vancouver.

Mr. President, the Olympics are not the only games taking place in Vancouver this season. Following the Olympics will be the 2010 Paralympic Winter Games. There, the world's best athletes with physical disabilities will compete in several winter sports.

Among those vying for a medal is Retired Army Staff Sergeant Health Calhoun. Heath grew up in Bristol, Tennessee, and joined the Army in 1999. In doing so, he followed a family tradition – his grandfather fought in World War II, and his father served in Vietnam. Heath trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was deployed to Iraq with the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division.

While on patrol in Iraq, his convoy was fired-upon with a rocket-propelled grenade, and Heath lost both legs above the knee. After months of recovery at Walter Reed, he was losing hope that he would ever walk again. But with the help of the Wounded Warrior Project, Heath became an advocate for other soldier-amputees.

Determined to regain his mobility, Heath began training with special prosthetic legs and computerized knees. Soon he was able not only to walk but also to run, golf, and drive an unmodified car. In 2008, Heath began training for the Vancouver Paralympic Games in the sport of adaptive skiing. He has been training in Aspen, Colorado, and won gold in last year's Super-G National Champions in Men's Sit-Ski. He will be headed to Vancouver in a few weeks to compete for medals there as well.

Mr. President, all three of these inspirational soldiers are not only Army Strong – they are Olympic strong. The values that called them to the Army – teamwork, perseverance, integrity, and service – are the same ones that drive them toward Olympic glory. It is the same set of values that calls other Americans to serve in the Navy, Marines, Air Force, Coast Guard, and civilian careers in federal government.

We have such talented citizens who are federal employees, and whether they are Nobel laureates or Army sergeants, whether they work behind a desk or a spacesuit, they all share the common bond of having chosen to give back to the country we all love.

This is the case with all of the Great Federal Employees I have honored from this desk so far and for those whose stories I have not yet shared or will not be able to during my brief term.

Shauna Rohbock put it best when she said: "I feel it's a great honor to be able to represent my country as a soldier and an athlete." All federal employees, military and civilian, athletes and non-athletes alike, represent us well.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in saluting Jeremy Teela, Shauna Rohbock, and Heath Calhoun and offering them and their fellow American Olympians our support in the pursuit of victory in Vancouver.

# Safeguarding Our National Security

~

*"Some give their lives for our country. Others give their lives to it. All of them demonstrate this greatest hallmark of patriotism: sacrifice."*

- June 18, 2009

## Brian Persons

### United States Navy

June 10, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I wish to return to my earlier topic of our excellent federal workforce. In my years of government service, I have met so many wonderful people who give so much of themselves for the benefit of us all. That is why I believe it essential for the American people to have confidence in our federal employees. Americans need to know that they can place their trust in those charged with carrying out the people's work.

Our government is filled with talented individuals performing their jobs with excellence. I cannot count the federal employees who deserve to be praised here in this chamber, because that number is so great. But I hope to share one story today that is exemplary of our civil servants overall.

The ancient philosophers used to compare the government of a state with that of a vessel at sea. In order to keep the ship afloat, to keep it headed in the proper direction, it required a captain and crew who were disciplined and responsible. Moreover, everyone on board – down to the lowest rank – had a job to do, and every task was critical.

So it is with government. Every federal employee, no matter how large or small one's job, keeps our ship of state afloat and sailing ever onward. I have not chosen to reference this analogy by chance. Rather, it fits well with the story of a hard-working and accomplished civil servant whom I wish to recognize today.

I spoke earlier about the effect of engineers on our economy and our communities. The federal employee I honor today has spent more than a quarter of a century working as a civilian engineer for the Navy Department.

Though today Brian Persons has risen to become Executive Director of the Naval Sea Systems Command, or NAVSEA, he began his public service as a ship architect at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard. A Michigan native and graduate of Michigan State with a degree in Civil Engineering, Brian went to work in 1981 for the Navy Department, designing and maintaining the ships of our fleet.

Brian distinguished himself in the Design Division at Long Beach, and he was made a supervisory architect within a few years. While there, he worked on overhauls of surface ships, including the great battleships U.S.S. New Jersey and the U.S.S. Missouri.

In 1988, when the U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts struck a mine in the Persian Gulf, the Navy sent Brian to Dubai to provide analysis and repair options. Though he was only asked to spend a week in the Gulf, Brian remained with the stricken vessel for forty-five days until it was again seaworthy. Describing the experience years later, he said: "I am still amazed at the authority I was given to execute this project. I was lucky to have such an opportunity at such an early stage in my career."

Mr. President, I want our nation's graduates to know that careers in public service are full of opportunities like the one given to Brian. Federal employees at all levels get to work on exciting and relevant projects every day.

After his superb performance in Dubai, Brian was given a series of challenging jobs in the NAVSEA Commander's Development Program. Just ten years after he first began his career, the Navy Department promoted Brian to be the Director for Maintenance and Modernization under the Assistant Secretary for Research, Development, and Acquisition. In this role, which he held for five years, he was responsible for overseeing policy on ship maintenance and modernization as well as the Navy's Nuclear, Biological, and Chemical protection programs.

Brian returned to NAVSEA in 1996 and has worked in various roles there over the past twelve years. For his dedicated service in government, Brian was honored with a Meritorious Presidential Rank Award in 2004 and won the prestigious Distinguished Presidential Rank Award last year.

This year, he was appointed as Executive Director of "NAVSEA," its most senior civilian executive. In addition to his work as an engineer and a manager, throughout the years, Brian has served as a role model to those working with him, including a number of colleagues from traditionally under-represented minority groups, whom he has mentored as they sought leadership positions in the Department. This, as I have said previously, is the kind of service and mentorship we need to promote among engineers and other science professionals. Engineers can play an important role in bettering our communities and promoting education among our students. I am glad we were able to include funding for service opportunities of this kind in the Serve America Act earlier this year.

I call again on my colleagues and on all Americans to join me in recognizing the contributions of Brian Persons and all of the engineers, scientists, and technicians who continue to ensure that our ship of state remains seaworthy and on a forward course. I honor their service and that of all our hard-working federal employees.

Joe Connaughton  
U.S. Army Missile Command

June 18, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I have spoken here a few times already about federal employees and the great work they perform. I am honored to be in a position to come here and do it. It gives me a great feeling to share stories in this chamber about excellent public servants.

These stories are only a few of the pieces in the vivid mosaic of our federal workforce. They are exemplary, not exceptional. The real story of our federal employees – that of their dedication, their talents, and their important contributions – needs to be told.

Service in government is characterized by sacrifice. Many of our federal employees wear a uniform and sacrifice on the battlefield. Others work in civilian jobs but still make great sacrifices by foregoing opportunities in the private sector, such as more free time, substantially better pay, and bonuses.

Their bonus, as I have said before, is the satisfaction of having served.

Today I wish to speak about a man who sacrificed both in battle and in government service. He risked his life during wartime and then spent nearly three decades working as a civilian engineer for the U.S. Army Missile Command.

Joe Connaughton, a native of Tuscaloosa, Alabama, had already distinguished himself during the Second World War. He served as a navigator and bombardier on forty-seven missions in both the European and Pacific theaters. Joe was decorated with three air medals and four battle stars, and his unit received the Croix de Guerre for support provided to the French Expeditionary Force during the Allied offensive in Italy.

After returning home, Joe took advantage of the G.I. Bill to pursue a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from the University of Alabama. He began working for the U.S. Army Missile Command near Huntsville in the late 1950s. For twenty-seven years, Joe worked for the Army Missile Command's Research Development and Engineering Division at Redstone Arsenal. He and his engineering team helped develop and perfect weapons systems critical to maintaining our military edge during the Cold War. This included the Lance, Hellfire, and T.H.A.A.D. missile propulsion systems.

When Joe and his colleagues were working on the Hellfire missile, which is carried primarily by the Apache attack helicopter, there was a problem when the TV-based guidance system encountered difficulties in smoke and bad weather. A missile whose own propulsion method gives off a smoke plume cannot be accurately directed if the smoke hinders its guidance system. The engineering team on which Joe worked developed a smokeless propellant, which greatly enhanced the missile's accuracy. For this achievement, Joe and his team earned the Army Missile Command's Scientific and Engineering Award in 1980.

When the Hellfire entered service in 1984, it was intended for use against Soviet tanks in a future Cold War conflict. But with the collapse of Communism in Europe just a few years later, some began to doubt whether its development – and that of similar systems – was worth the cost.

However, with the laser guidance and missile propulsion system developed by the civilian engineers at Redstone Arsenal, the Hellfire proved its worth during Operation Desert Storm in 1991. In that conflict, the Army and Marine Corps used the Hellfire to disable the Iraqi air defenses in its initial strike, quickly gaining air supremacy. Apache helicopters launched Hellfire missiles against a myriad of targets, demonstrating the usefulness and effectiveness of this new weapon.

This guided missile system, perfected in Alabama by Joe and other federal employees, helped spare civilian lives in Iraq and ensured a rapid coalition victory. They continue to play a major role today, as Predator drones carry Hellfire missiles on missions over Afghanistan.

Mr. President, our military depends on countless civilian engineers just like Joe. Without their hard work and important contributions, we could not maintain the military strength we have today. They are all government workers, and they work on bases and in research facilities throughout the country, including at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville.

These men and women wake up each day and go to work knowing that they directly participate in keeping America safe. The technologies they develop remain at the forefront of our fight against Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups. We must never forget that they, along with the rest of our civilian government employees, enable the military to do its job.

Some give their lives for our country. Others give their lives to it. All of them demonstrate this greatest hallmark of patriotism: sacrifice.

Joe could have made more money in the private sector. Doubtless, he could have moved from the Army Missile Command to work for a private military contractor, the same people he worked with on a daily basis in developing these systems. But he didn't. His priority was making a contribution, not making money.

In some ways, we have lost sight of this sense of purpose, which is the engine of our American spirit. I am encouraged that President Obama has called for a new generation to take up the torch of public service through careers in government. He has called on us, once again, to make sacrifices in order to ensure the future safety and prosperity of this country we love so dearly.

Our federal employees, like Joe, feel a sense of duty to serve this great nation. It is what sustained him – a twenty-year old airman from Alabama – over Italy, France, Yugoslavia, China, and Japan. It is what sustained him as an engineer when he returned home to Alabama and worked to build America's defenses. It is love of country. It is service above self.

Joe embodies this spirit, and I know he has passed it on to the next generation. I can see it firsthand, because his son, Jeff, is my Chief of Staff.

Families across America will gather this Sunday to mark Father's Day and to celebrate the important bond between fathers and their children. On this occasion I am reminded of my own father – who spent his entire career as a government employee – and the important lessons he taught me about the value of public service.

I also think about fathers throughout America who have chosen – along with so many mothers – to dedicate their careers to serving the public. They are powerful role models, not only for their own daughters and sons, but for all young Americans who want a chance to shape this country's future.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the sacrifices and the achievements of all our federal employees. I want to wish Joe a happy Father's Day, and I extend the same well wishes to families across the country, especially those with a loved one serving overseas.



Sgt. Major Gregory Symes  
Delaware Army National Guard

November 10, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Ninety years ago this Wednesday, President Wilson signed a proclamation marking the first anniversary of the armistice that ended World War I.

At the time, many believed that the cruelty experienced by the combatants and civilian victims of that war would never be surpassed. Unfortunately, as we learned later, they were mistaken. But it was the tragedy of that conflict and harrowing stories brought back from the trenches that led to the establishment of a day honoring America's veterans.

Veterans Day provides a moment of pause to remember the sacrifices made by those who wore our Nation's uniform. Mr. President, it also presents an opportunity to reflect on the dual nature of our federal government.

When average Americans hear "federal employees," they usually think of the 1.8 million civilian government employees. However, it is all too often forgotten that the 1.4 million men and women serving in uniform are also federal employees. Our federal workforce has two legs – the civilian and the military. But they march together in step, because we depend on both, and they depend on one another.

Without the military we could not remain free and secure. Without the civilian federal workforce we could not keep America on the path toward prosperity and the continued pursuit of happiness. Civilian federal employees work closely with the military, not only to craft strategies and policies but also to pay, arm, and care for our troops.

While some choose to serve in uniform and others in civilian roles, there are, Mr. President, many who do both. According to a 2006 study by the Office of Personnel Management, one out of every four civilian federal employees is also a military veteran. Moreover, a fifth of these are disabled veterans. And that is just in the executive branch – this number doesn't even include those who currently serve in the National Guard or the many veterans working right here on Capitol Hill and in the federal judiciary.

They work in nearly every department and agency. Not surprisingly, some of the agencies with the highest percentages of veterans are those that relate to law enforcement. The Pentagon

too employs many veterans, as does the Department of Homeland Security. Almost half of the civilian employees of the Veterans Benefits Administration are veterans themselves.

However, many Americans do not realize that roughly one of every three employees at the Department of Transportation is a veteran. The same is true of the Mine Safety and Health Administration at the Department of Labor.

Mr. President, over a third of those working at the U.S. Mint are veterans. I bet most Americans would also be surprised to learn that veterans make up a quarter of those who work at the Smithsonian's National Gallery of Art. It would take me a long time to read through all the departments and agencies with large numbers of veterans on staff, so I will spare my colleagues. But the point I emphasize is that so many of our federal employees share a tradition of national service that began in the military.

Today, I wish to continue my weekly tradition of recognizing an outstanding federal employee by sharing the story of a man from my home state of Delaware. Not only does he work full time as a federal technician for the Delaware National Guard, but he also recently completed a year of active duty service.

Command Sergeant Major Gregory Symes had already served in the Delaware Army National Guard for seven years when he started working as a federal technician for the Guard in 1989. A graduate of John Dickinson High School in Wilmington, Gregory trained as an automotive mechanic. While he began his federal employment in that role, he studied telecommunications and, in 2001, became a Telecommunication Specialist for the Delaware Guard's Director of Information Management.

Gregory has served as a mentor to those working alongside him, and he has risen to become the senior enlisted advisor to the battalion commander for the 722<sup>nd</sup> Troop Command. In this capacity, he is often given the task of looking after the well-being of other soldiers in the battalion.

Last month, Gregory completed a one-year deployment on active duty with the 261<sup>st</sup> Signal Brigade, and he was stationed at Fort Bliss, New Mexico, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Decorated for his service, Gregory has received the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Service Ribbon, and the Non-commissioned Officers Professional Development Ribbon, among others. He continues to serve with dedication and distinction in his federal role with the Guard, staying on the forefront of ever-changing telecommunications technology.

For Gregory and all of the other veterans and National Guard members who work as federal employees, sacrifice and service are a life's pursuit. They are a constant reminder of why Veterans Day is so important.

While on Memorial Day we remember those who never made it home; on Veterans Day, we rededicate ourselves to the task of caring for those who did. Care and gratitude for our veterans remains a sacred responsibility, and one that was as relevant to those who fought at Bunker Hill as it is to those stationed in Baghdad today.

George Washington once said: "The willingness with which our young people are likely to serve in any war, no matter how justified, shall be directly proportional as to how they perceive the veterans of earlier wars were treated and appreciated by their country."

I hope all Americans will take the opportunity this week to express their appreciation to all of our veterans, especially those who continue to serve the public as federal employees.

I invite my colleagues to join me in thanking Command Sergeant Major Gregory Symes, the federal employees of the Delaware Army National Guard, and all who have served our Nation in uniform. They continue to make us all proud.

Ann Azevedo  
Federal Aviation Authority

November 17, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once more to honor an outstanding federal employee.

Next week, American families will gather around dinner tables in celebration of Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving is a time for coming together. In earlier ages, members of an extended family usually resided in close proximity to one another. Today, however, the typical American family is spread across the country, with members far in distance even if close in spirit.

Americans of all backgrounds and from all walks of life will be travelling long distances to be with their loved-ones. It is no wonder that Thanksgiving weekend is one of the busiest travel periods of the year. Tens of millions of us will be driving, flying, and taking trains or ferries next week. For some it will be stressful, for others exciting. Most, though, will do it without even realizing how much work goes into keeping American travelers safe.

The Department of Transportation employee whose story I will share today has been instrumental in ensuring the safety of those who travel. But before I tell you about this outstanding public servant, I want to reflect on how important transportation is for America.

From its humble beginnings, ours has been a Nation on the move. In George Washington's day, their mercantile spirit drove our founding generation to dig canals and clear roads across the Appalachians. Steamships and railroads fueled the expansion across the West and helped close the frontier. Air travel in the last century brought every corner of our fifty states ever closer and opened new opportunities for the growth of business and tourism.

This march of progress in transportation technology has not been a smooth ride. When the railroads were new, train wrecks were fairly common. In fact, President-Elect Franklin Pierce was *en route* to Washington for his inauguration when his train derailed, tragically killing his eleven year-old son. Travel by ferry or steamship on our rivers and lakes was far from safe in those days. For pioneer families, roads were often impassible during wintertime, and many lost their lives just trying to get to the West. While air travel is the safest form of transportation in our day, it was not always the case.

Making sure that our Nation's "planes, trains, and automobiles" are safe remains one of our highest priorities. My home state of Delaware, like every other state, depends on a top-notch transportation infrastructure to facilitate economic activity, moving people and goods across markets.

Travel can and should be a safe and fun experience. No one should ever have to worry that the vehicles on our roads, rails, rivers, or in our skies are unsafe. That is where the hardworking men and women of the Department of Transportation excel. They set and enforce regulations upholding the strictest standards in transportation safety. The great federal employee I have chosen to recognize this week has been a leader on safety issues at the Transportation Department's Federal Aviation Administration for twelve years.

Ann Azevedo came to the department in 1997 with nearly two decades of experience in the private sector. Working from the FAA facility in Burlington, Massachusetts, when she first started at the FAA, Ann served as the Risk Analysis Specialist for the Engine and Propeller directorate. In her current role as Chief Scientific and Technical Advisor for Aircraft Safety Analysis, Ann focuses on safety, risk management, and analyzing accidents. From the data she gathers, Ann is able to develop solutions to help prevent future incidents.

Regularly representing the FAA at national and international air safety round-tables, Ann has become a respected voice among those engaged in risk management analysis. She helped write the training manuals for turbofan and turboprop aircraft used across the industry, and she continues to teach risk analysis at the FAA Academy.

Ann holds a bachelor's degree in Systems Planning and Management in Applied Mathematics and a master's of science in Mechanical Engineering. When she was once asked how she ended up in her chosen career field, Ann cited her love of math and an influential physics teacher in high school. Ann was awarded the Arthur S. Flemming Award for public service in 2002 for developing safety solutions that resulted in a 64% decrease in the commercial aviation fatality rate between 1998 and 2002. She also was honored as Distinguished Engineer of the Year by the American Society of Mechanical Engineering in 1996.

Her work, and that of all her colleagues at the FAA and other Transportation Department agencies, helps ensure that travel in our country continues to be as safe as possible. Most importantly, they facilitate the smiles of those arriving safely at a journey's end and seeing their loved ones for the first time after weeks, months, or even years apart.

That remains a central element of Thanksgiving, and I hope all Americans will join me in thanking Ann Azevedo and all the men and women of the Department of Transportation for their hard work keeping American travelers safe. They keep us - whether on the road, on the rails, at sea, or in the sky - moving ever forward.

## Dr. Gareth Parry

### Nuclear Regulatory Commission

December 4, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once more to honor the service of a great federal employee.

Human ingenuity is boundless. This is especially true in America, which has always been driven by an entrepreneurial spirit and a belief that nothing is impossible. From Whitney's cotton gin to the first elevator, from the electric telegraph to the refrigerated rail car, our forbearers used their ingenuity to help build a nation. Such invention and perseverance closed the western frontier in the nineteenth century. In the century that followed, Americans continued to be pioneers on that frontier which has no end – the frontier of science.

Sixty-seven years ago this week, a team of American physicists led by Enrico Fermi conducted a critical experiment. On a cold winter's afternoon, they huddled under the stands of the old football stadium at the University of Chicago. Using graphite blocks, wooden rods, and uranium pellets, they initiated the first-ever controlled nuclear reaction. That experiment, called "Chicago Pile One," marked the beginning of the nuclear age.

Mr. President, today all Americans know that the discovery of nuclear power was a mixed blessing. With it came the potential for a new form of energy to power our homes and businesses. For the first time, our naval ships could remain at sea – and on guard – for extended periods without refueling.

But with nuclear energy came nuclear weapons. These led to the dangerous prospect of the mass destruction of hundreds of cities within minutes. They brought us a generation of "duck and cover" and backyard fallout shelters.

Thankfully – though our nation and others continue to possess these weapons in our time – the Cold War is over. No longer are we minutes from "mutually assured destruction," the way we once were. Today, peaceful nuclear energy provides a fifth of our electricity, and there are 104 civilian reactors in operation across the country. Developing and enforcing the regulations that keep these reactors safe are the men and women of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

This week I want to recognize the contribution of an outstanding public servant, Dr. Gareth Parry. Gareth has had a distinguished career at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission advancing our nuclear safety. He is also a 2004 recipient of the distinguished Arthur S. Flemming Award for public service.

Gareth, who immigrated to this country from the United Kingdom, has over thirty years of experience in developing models for probabilistic risk analysis – or PRA. He retired this September after a long and distinguished career.

As Senior Advisor on PRA for the Commission's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, Gareth became one of the leading experts on analyzing common cause failure and human reliability. His work led to the development of PRA standards and the use of PRA to support risk-informed decision-making with regard to nuclear safety.

Gareth, as a scientist and a public servant, worked hard to ensure the safety of America's civilian nuclear facilities. The kind of work he performed is highly mathematical and complex, and it may not sound glamorous to the average American. But it is critical and contributes enormously to the security and economic well-being of our Nation.

Sixty-seven years ago, Fermi and his team first harnessed the power of the atom. Today, the men and women of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission ensure that our modern nuclear reactors continue to do so safely.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the service of Dr. Gareth Parry and all who have worked– and continue to work – at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Thelma Stubbs Smith  
Department of Defense

April 15, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to speak about one of our nation's great federal employees.

Mr. President, we've just returned to Washington, and I know we have a long and busy work period ahead in the Senate. All of us will be relying on our staff – especially our schedulers and personal assistants – to keep us abreast of the latest vote schedules and meetings with constituents and colleagues.

I cannot overstate how much those of us in positions of leadership depend on the hard work and expertise of those who keep us organized and ever-prepared. This is not just true for me and my colleagues in the Senate but also for members of the House, Cabinet secretaries, agency heads, and other senior officials. That is why I have chosen to honor as this week's great federal employee a woman whose long career did so much to help keep our nation safe during the Cold War.

Thelma Stubbs Smith served for over forty years in the Defense Department as a personal assistant. She worked for seven consecutive Secretaries of Defense – both Republican and Democratic. Before that, Thelma served under six assistant secretaries in the department.

A native of Chicago, Thelma began her public service career during World War II, when she worked for the Selective Service System and the Office of Price Administration. After the war, she worked as a secretary at the Veterans Administration before coming to Washington to work for the Pentagon's Guided Missiles Committee. Thelma briefly served on the staff of Illinois Congressman Melvin Price in 1952, but she soon returned to the Pentagon.

In the 1950's and '60s, Thelma served as the personal assistant to six Assistant Secretaries of Defense, including William Bundy, John McNaughton, and Paul Nitze. During this time, she began accompanying them on what would later total eighty-five trips overseas during her career. As part of her duties during that period, she worked closely with Secretary Robert McNamara.

One of the most harrowing moments in her life came on the thirteenth day of the Cuban Missile Crisis. Thelma spent that evening personally burning important cables and notes in a



small office at the Pentagon, as they were too sensitive to be shredded with other papers. When she finally left after midnight, she was one of the few Americans who knew just how precarious the situation was, and she couldn't say with certainty whether the Pentagon would be there the next morning. But, thankfully, that morning came.

In 1969, when Melvin Laird was confirmed as Secretary of Defense, he asked Thelma to serve as his personal assistant. She agreed to do so on a temporary basis.

Mr. President, I know personally how a "temporary basis" can evolve into a life's pursuit. When Joe Biden asked me to help him set up his Senate office in 1972, I took a one-year leave of absence from my job with the DuPont Company, and I ended up staying with Joe Biden for twenty-two years. In that way, Thelma began her service as the personal assistant to every Secretary of Defense from Melvin Laird to Frank Carlucci.

During the course of her service, Thelma visited every corner of the world. She was awarded ten Meritorious Civilian Service Medals and the Secretary of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service, which is the highest medal a civilian employee of the Pentagon can earn.

A paragon of professionalism and discretion, Thelma always answered those who urged her to write a book by saying that "It would be five hundred blank pages, and the title would be 'My Lips are Sealed.'"

All of us who serve in positions of leadership with enormous responsibility to the American people owe so much to great organizers and assistants like Thelma. I know firsthand how Thelma's dedication to public service was passed on to her family. Her daughter, Sheryl Rogers, and son-in-law, Geoff Rogers, have lived in my home state of Delaware for over twenty years, and both were federal employees as staffers here in the Senate. Sheryl used to work in the office of former Virginia Senator John Warner, and Geoff spent a few years in then-Senator Joe Biden's office, back when I was Chief-of-Staff.

Thelma, now retired, resides in Northern Virginia, not far from the Pentagon, where she served for so many years.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the great contribution Thelma Stubbs Smith has made to our nation as well as thanking all those who serve as personal assistants in the Defense Department and across our government.

They are all truly great federal employees.

Stuart Levey  
Department of the Treasury

May 20, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to speak once more about our Nation's great federal employees.

The United States and our allies are engaged in an ongoing effort to disrupt and dismantle terrorist groups overseas. Every day, our troops act with great courage and commitment to take the fight to Al Qaeda and its allies. Complementing their efforts are public servants who target individuals providing financial backing and other forms of support to terrorists overseas. One of the key government officials leading that effort here in Washington is a great federal employee at the Treasury Department.

Stuart Levey has served as the Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence since 2004. Appointed to the position by President Bush, he was asked to continue after President Obama took office as a testament to his effectiveness and unique abilities. Stuart has done an outstanding job cutting off the flow of money to terror groups and their sponsors, and support for his efforts crosses political divides.

Today, one of the leading state-sponsors of terrorism is Iran. While an array of unilateral and multilateral sanctions remain in place with regard to Iran, many foreign businesses, banks, and other entities do business with Iran, which helps the Iranian government finance its nuclear program and terrorist activities.

In 2006, Stuart adopted a new tactic to deal with this problem. Instead of focusing solely on government action, he began exploring opportunities for cooperation with the private sector and urging private sector institutions to take action.

In this regard, Stuart led an effort to convince foreign banks to cease conducting business with Iran until that country agreed to comply with international banking standards. By showing companies and banks that doing business in Iran has financial and diplomatic repercussions, he has convinced corporations to cut off business with Iran. All of this was done in addition to the more traditional strategies of adding Iranian banks to the U.S. terrorist list and imposing more stringent regulations on American financial institutions.

As Stuart's efforts took off, banks throughout the world – including in China and Muslim-majority countries – began cutting financial ties with Iran. Energy companies have been persuaded to avoid initiating deals to extract Iranian oil and gas, and such action has had far-reaching financial implications. Our multilateral efforts against terrorism and nuclear non-proliferation have also been strengthened by Stuart's work.

At the Treasury Department, Stuart oversees the Office of Terrorist Finance and Financial Crime, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Office of Foreign Assets Control, and the Treasury Executive Office of Asset Forfeiture. In his leadership of these offices, Stuart has shaped a new role for the Treasury Department as a key player in national security matters and decisions, ranging from Iran to North Korea.

Before coming to the Treasury Department, Stuart served as Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General at the Justice Department. There, he coordinated a number of the department's counter-terrorism activities. He worked for several years in private practice before entering public service in 2001, and he holds undergraduate and law degrees from Harvard University.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Stuart Levy for his achievements and wish him continued success in his efforts, which are ongoing. He and his colleagues working at the Treasury Department on counter-terrorism and financial intelligence are deserving of both praise and recognition for all they do to keep Americans safe and to secure American interests, both domestically and abroad. They are all truly great federal employees.

# Recognizing Public Service: One Year Later

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*"Our work in Congress today is the drafting of a blueprint for recovery, security, and prosperity. The task of building and maintaining these edifices we design will belong to the dedicated and industrious civil servants upon whom all Americans daily rely.*

*"They are the regulators who will restore stability to our financial system. They are the lawyers who will prosecute terrorists detained overseas. They are the doctors and nurses who will care for our returning veterans. They are the aid workers who spread hope and healing around the world. They are the instruments by which we, the people, secure the 'blessings of liberty.'"*

- May 5, 2010

## Public Service Recognition Week 2010

May 5, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. This week, once again, we celebrate Public Service Recognition Week. Public Service Recognition Week provides us all a chance to reflect upon the contribution made by those who serve in government. All throughout the week, the Partnership for Public Service, a leading non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to honoring those who work in government, will be hosting informative programs across Washington.

One of the most exciting moments during the week is the announcement of this year's finalists for the distinguished Service to America Medals, or "Sammies." This year, once again, the crop of finalists is outstanding, and the winners will be announced at the Partnership's annual Service to America Gala in September.

During last year's Public Service Recognition Week, I delivered the first in a series of weekly speeches from this desk honoring great federal employees. Now, one year later, I am proud to continue this effort today by recognizing my sixtieth great federal employee – along with a few others who have won Service to America Medals in the past.

Anh Duong has worked for the Naval Surface Warfare Center, in Indian Head, Maryland, for twenty-seven years. But her relationship with the U.S. Navy goes back farther. She came to this country after escaping Vietnam as a teenager, having fled by helicopter to a Navy vessel off-shore. After coming to the United States, Anh obtained a degree in chemical engineering and computer science from the University of Maryland.

After graduation, Anh began working at the Naval Surface Warfare Center as a chemical engineer, and from 1991-1999, she oversaw the Center's advanced development programs in high explosives. From 1999-2002, she worked as the head of its programs to develop undersea weapons.

After the September 11 attacks, when our Armed Forces were given the mission to defeat the Taliban, it was Anh who was asked to develop a thermobaric bomb that could be used to reach deep into Afghanistan's mountain caves, where Taliban fighters were hiding. She and her team were only given a hundred days to prepare such a weapon for use. They did it in sixty-seven days.

Since 2006, she has been working with the Naval Criminal Investigative Service to create mobile battlefield forensics labs to help quickly identify those behind terrorist attacks. Anh Duong was awarded the Service to America Medal for National Security in 2007.

Another dedicated federal employee, who won the Service to America National Security medal in 2005, is Alan Estevez. Alan is the Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Logistics and Military Readiness.

The old adage says that “an army runs on its stomach.” In fact, a modern military runs on much more than that. There are thousands of pieces of equipment and supplies that need to be transported in and out of an area of operations. Alan has been working since 1981 to make our military logistics system more efficient.

Over the past several years, Alan has overseen efforts to implement Radio Frequency Identification – or “RFID” – technology into our military supply chain. He saw that companies like Wal-Mart were using RFID to track products with a high degree of accuracy and to reduce waste. Alan’s work over the past three decades has saved the military – and the taxpayers – countless dollars and has helped ensure that our troops have the supplies they need to fulfill their missions.

Mr. President, another Service to America medalist I want to highlight today is Riaz Awan. He served as the Energy Department’s attaché in the Ukraine when he won a Sammie for his work to secure the site of the 1986 Chernobyl meltdown.

Riaz won the 2003 Service to America Medal for International Affairs, which recognized the several years he spent living near the site of the Chernobyl disaster and working with the local communities to mitigate its social and economic impact. As part of his work, Riaz oversaw the construction of a new concrete shelter over the former Chernobyl reactor – one of the largest and most complex engineering projects in the world at the time. Additionally, his work on nonproliferation in the Ukraine has helped prevent terrorists from getting their hands on nuclear materials leftover from the fall of the Soviet Union.

In the same year that Riaz won his award, the Service to America Medal for Call to Service, which recognizes new federal employees, was won by Alyson McFarland of the State Department.

Alyson had only worked at the State Department for three years when she found herself in the middle of a tense diplomatic situation. She was working as a Program Development Officer at our consulate in the northern Chinese city of Shenyang, near the North Korean border. One summer day, in 2002, three North Korean refugees jumped over the consulate wall, seeking asylum.

Alyson was one of the only Korean-speakers working in the consulate, and she quickly became instrumental in communicating with the refugees and authorities from the Chinese and South Korean governments. By playing a key role in supporting the negotiations with the refugees and government officials, she helped enable the asylum-seekers to reach freedom in South Korea. At the time of the incident, she was only twenty-eight years old.

The fifth and final story I want to share today is about the winner of the 2002 Service to America Medal for Justice and Law Enforcement. Special Agent Robert Rutherford won it for his work at the U.S. Customs Service, which has since been renamed as the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

Robert served as the Group Supervisor for the Customs Service's Air-Marine Investigations Group in Miami, and his primary job was to keep illegal drugs from reaching American shores. Starting in 1999, Robert began noticing a sharp rise in the amount of cocaine and other narcotics being smuggled into the country from Haiti, which was contributing to a rise in local crime.

On his own initiative, Robert worked with his colleagues to form Operation River Sweep to block the Miami River as a trafficking route for drugs. As part of the operation, he led a first-of-its-kind intra-agency task force under the direction of the Customs Service. Between 1999 and 2001, Operation River Sweep made over 120 arrests and prevented over 13,000 pounds of cocaine from reaching Florida communities.

As Robert's efforts met with success, the local crime rate dropped. In order to stay afloat, the drug traffickers adapted their methods, hoping to outsmart the Customs Service. However, in 2001, Robert launched a second task force – Operation River Walk – involving over 300 law enforcement personnel from local, state, and federal agencies. This second task force arrested over 230 trafficking suspects and seized over 15,000 pounds of cocaine and cannabis.

Mr. President, though the details are different in each case, all five of these stories about Service to America winners send the same message. It is a message of service above self, of motivation to carry out the people's work.

When I first spoke about federal employees a year ago, I noted the importance of the oath taken by all those who serve in federal government. The spirit of that oath, to "support and defend the Constitution" and "faithfully discharge the duties of the office," undergirds the service of every man and woman who has worked as a federal employee since 1789.

Our work in Congress today is the drafting of a blueprint for recovery, security, and prosperity. The task of building and maintaining these edifices we design will belong to the dedicated and industrious civil servants upon whom all Americans daily rely.

They are the regulators who will restore stability to our financial system. They are the lawyers who will prosecute terrorists detained overseas. They are the doctors and nurses who will care for our returning veterans. They are the aid workers who spread hope and healing around the world. They are the instruments by which we, the people, secure the “blessings of liberty.”

As we mark Public Service Recognition Week, let us all make an effort to thank those who have chosen the path of public service. They are all truly great federal employees.



# Ensuring Government Responsibility

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*"Henry Clay once said that 'Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and trustees are created for the benefit of the people.' Every dollar of the taxpayer's money that we in Congress spend on their behalf must be accounted for and every program rigorously audited to prevent waste and fraud."*

- May 13, 2010

Lisa Brown  
Executive Office of the President

January 20, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize one of America's great federal employees.

One year ago today, Barack Obama took the oath of office as President of the United States. As with every change in administration, the White House welcomed many new staff members, appointed by the President to help him carry out his policy goals.

I have spoken many times about career federal employees who serve regardless of which political party controls the executive branch. Today, I want to use my time to highlight the important work performed by those federal employees who serve in appointee positions. Although their jobs depend on the outcome of elections and political circumstances, they are no less accountable to the people and no less dedicated in their service.

This holds true for the appointees from both parties, who, given the opportunity, eagerly leave jobs in the private and non-profit sectors to serve in government. Many of our Nation's elected leaders once served in this capacity, including some of my Senate colleagues.

On this first anniversary of President Obama's inauguration, many are reflecting on the past twelve months and trying to gauge his administration's success. One thing I am certain about is that he could not carry out his ambitious agenda without the help of the talented White House staff.

The Great Federal Employee I am honoring today has the challenging job of making sure the White House staff are working together and that all of the information the President needs reaches his desk.

Lisa Brown serves as White House Staff Secretary. It is a position many Americans are unfamiliar with, but it is one of the most important in the West Wing. The Staff Secretary is responsible for keeping the lines of communication between the President and his senior staff open and organized. Nearly every memo destined for the President's desk must first pass through the hands of the Staff Secretary, who filters the most pressing items and ensures that the President's decisions are conveyed to the appropriate staff member.

Lisa is a native of Connecticut, and she graduated *magna cum laude* from Princeton with a degree in Political Economy. She also holds a law degree with honors from the University of Chicago.

After clerking for the late Judge John Godbold, on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit in Alabama, Lisa was a partner at the Washington law firm Shea & Gardner. While working in the private sector, she also engaged in *pro bono* work in the area of civil rights and disabilities law. During that time, Lisa gained valuable expertise in these fields, which she would later put to use in her government service.

In 1996, Lisa began working as an Attorney Advisor in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. After a year in that role, she was appointed Deputy Counsel to Vice President Gore, and in 1999 she was appointed as his Counsel. At the same time, Lisa served on the Executive Board of the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities. She also worked on legislative issues with the Vice President's Domestic Policy Office.

After the Clinton administration ended, Lisa moved to the non-profit sector, where she became Executive Director of the American Constitution Society for Law and Policy. When President Obama was elected, he asked her to return to government service as a key part of his White House team.

Despite her busy schedule in one of America's most stressful work environments, Lisa still finds time to raise a six-year-old son with her husband Kevin. Juggling family responsibilities and a demanding work load is a challenge she shares with many other West Wing staffers.

Lisa and other political appointees are a living reminder of the elective nature of our government. When the people decide to give control of the executive branch to the party in opposition, that party is always ready to call on a cadre of talented and dedicated citizens ready to shape policy.

Many of them bring to their jobs the unique perspective of having worked for a previous administration, and they frequently leave higher-paying jobs to return to government service. When they do so, they are not only signing on to serve the President. They also commit to long and stressful hours working on behalf of the American people to whom the President and his West Wing staff are answerable.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the service of Lisa Brown and all those working and who have worked in the West Wing under Presidents Obama, Bush, Clinton, and their predecessors.

# Mary Klutts, Donna Scheeder, & Ronald O'Rourke

## Library of Congress

March 22, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise to share the stories, once again, of some of our Nation's great federal employees.

All throughout March, libraries across America have been celebrating National Reading Month. Children from coast to coast have been learning about the importance of books, and schools have been promoting literacy as a tool for academic advancement. This month-long celebration of reading – from Dr. Seuss's classic *The Cat in the Hat* to Joyce's *Ulysses* – reminds us not only of the joy found in the written word but also of the critical role libraries play in our communities.

Libraries have long been a staple of American life, dating back even to our early colonial days. In the decades before the Revolution, America's first libraries enabled the dissemination of the very ideas that inspired our founding patriots. In the eighteenth century, the athenaeums of New England and the shareholder libraries of Benjamin Franklin served as precursors to our robust, modern network of free public libraries.

In 1800, our predecessors in the Sixth Congress established a research library to help those in government carry out their work with access to scholarly volumes on every subject. Today, the Library of Congress is the largest library in the world, and its ornate reading room remains an awe-inspiring cathedral of learning.

Today, I have chosen to honor three public servants who work at the Library of Congress.

Mary Klutts began her federal career as a U.S. Marine. In 1990, she came to the Library of Congress as a budget analyst, and in her twenty years there she has become an expert in every aspect of the Library's operating budget. Since 2007, when Mary was named Budget Officer, she has set out to transform the way the Library's budget proposals and funding justifications are formulated. Her work has helped make the Library's budget and operations more transparent, and its funding proposals are more concise. Now, Library of Congress budget proposals are often cited as the model for the legislative branch. As a result of Mary's efforts, the Library received strong support from Congress in appropriations for the last two fiscal years. During this time of economic challenges, Mary has helped demonstrate where every dollar of taxpayer money for the Library goes and why.

Another outstanding Library of Congress employee is Donna Scheeder, who has worked there for over forty years. Having worked in a number of roles throughout her career at the Library, Donna was an early champion of integrating computers into libraries, and she introduced the idea of electronic briefing books for Congress. She is recognized as a leader in the information management field, and she has guest-lectured around the world on the topic of legislative library management. Donna is also a former president of the Special Libraries Association.

Until recently, Donna was serving as the Acting Law Librarian of Congress, and she was awarded the Federal Librarians Achievement Award in 2009. An active member of the Washington, D.C., community, she serves as Chair of the Eastern Market Community Advisory Committee and on the Board of the Old Naval Hospital Foundation. When not spearheading innovative initiatives at the Library, Donna spends time relaxing at her home on the Delaware shore.

One of the branches of the Library of Congress most familiar to those of us who serve in this chamber is the Congressional Research Service – or CRS. This non-partisan office houses scholars who prepare reports on every policy issue and the effects of proposed and enacted legislation. They are our “go-to guys” for information on every topic, and they are truly great at their jobs. The third person I am honoring today has been an analyst with the CRS since 1984.

When Ronald O’Rourke joined the CRS as a naval analyst, he arrived with an impressive background as a Phi Beta Kappa graduate of the Johns Hopkins University. He was also valedictorian of his class at the Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, where he obtained his master’s degree. At CRS, Ronald quickly distinguished himself as a leading expert on naval strategic and budgetary issues, and he frequently briefs members of Congress and their staffs on defense programs and appropriations. He has even been called to testify as an expert at Congressional hearings. Though he already had a busy schedule as a Specialist in Naval Affairs, he stepped in when the CRS’s expert in military aviation passed away suddenly last year. Ronald took responsibility for that portfolio in addition to his own, and his reports on high-profile aviation programs proved invaluable during the Congressional debates on defense spending in the 2010 budget.

Mary Klutts, Donna Scheeder, and Ronald O’Rourke continue their work in public service at the Library of Congress to this day. They are just three of the many talented and dedicated men and women whose work benefits not only those of us in Congress but also the tens of millions who access resources from community libraries throughout our Nation.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the important contribution made by the employees of the Library of Congress. They are all truly Great Federal Employees.

## Cathleen Berrick & Cynthia Bascetta Government Accountability Office

May 13, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to speak once more about our Nation's great federal employees.

Henry Clay once said that "Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and trustees are created for the benefit of the people."

Every dollar of the taxpayer's money that we in Congress spend on their behalf must be accounted for and every program rigorously audited to prevent waste and fraud. That job belongs to the tireless and persistent employees of the Government Accountability Office.

Since its founding in 1921, the GAO has been called "the taxpayers' best friend." It is the people's watchdog, the home of over three thousand federal employees whose main task is to save the American people money by analyzing how public funds are spent. They make recommendations to Congress on how best to eliminate waste and make programs more efficient.

If our elected officials have been entrusted to guard over public business, surely it is the men and women of the GAO who, in the words of the ancient adage, "watch over the guardians." Today, I want to highlight the achievements of two outstanding employees of the GAO.

Cathleen Berrick has spent her whole career as a public servant. First in the office of the Inspector General at the Pentagon and with the Air Force Audit Agency, and later with the Postal Service's Inspector General and the GAO, Cathleen has been at the forefront of ensuring the accountability of government for many years.

As the Managing Director at the GAO for Homeland Security and Justice, she has led comprehensive analyses of potential security vulnerabilities at the Transportation Security Agency and suggested key improvements. In 2008, when assigned to review the plan for the TSA's "Secure Flight" program, which screens air passengers against terrorist watch lists, Cathleen identified flaws and offered sound recommendations.

She has also conducted studies and authored reports recommending more oversight in how we secure our nation's mass transit systems and passenger rail. Cathleen has testified before congressional committees over twenty times and has proven to be an expert resource for policymakers.

The second person whose story I will share is Cynthia Bascetta. Cynthia had worked for the GAO for thirty years when she was set to retire. However, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina caused her to delay her retirement, and she decided to remain in public service.

As the GAO's Director for Health Care, Cynthia leads two major reviews of public health care infrastructure in New Orleans to ensure that recovery funds are being spent wisely and for the greatest benefit. In her three decades of service at the GAO, she has fought to improve federal disability policies, urged making HIV treatment and prevention a national priority, and recommended changes to Social Security that helped beneficiaries return to work without losing health care benefits.

One of the areas of focus throughout Cynthia's career has been improving care for our wounded veterans. She testified at the first congressional hearing to investigate the conditions at Walter Reed Medical Center, and her reviews were critical in understanding where changes needed to be made.

Since we passed the Recovery Act last year, the GAO has been preparing reports every sixty days on how funds are being used. Cynthia has been working recently as the GAO's state lead for Illinois, carefully reviewing every dollar from the Recovery Act being spent there.

Mr. President, employees of the GAO continue to ensure that government programs work for the American people. They remain ever-vigilant to ensure that all of our public funds are spent wisely and carefully.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Cathleen Berrick, Cynthia Bascetta, and all of the outstanding public servants at the Government Accountability Office for their service to our Nation. They are all truly great federal employees.

Samuel Heyman  
Department of Justice

November 10, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Each week I have been speaking from this desk about our excellent federal employees. I continue to do so because I believe that Americans need to hear more about the outstanding men and women who serve in government, and we need to do more to encourage our graduates to consider careers in public service.

Samuel J. Heyman was a champion of this cause.

Mr. Heyman attended Yale University and Harvard Law School, and he felt called to public service as a young law graduate in 1963. Working in the Justice Department under then-Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, Mr. Heyman served as Chief Assistant U.S. Attorney for his native Connecticut.

After five years, he left government service to take over his family's real estate development business, but he would never forget the sense of duty and pride he felt as a federal employee.

Mr. Heyman knew that federal employees were those who shared his level of determination and work ethic. He knew that the men and women who chose to spend their careers working for the American people not only deserve more credit than they typically receive. He understood as well that they have the benefit of looking back on their careers with the great satisfaction of having made a difference.

It is for these reasons that, in 2001, Mr. Heyman founded the Partnership for Public Service, which promotes federal employment, and he received the Presidential Citizen Medal last year for his work as its chairman.

The Partnership also awards annual Service to America Medals in several categories, which have affectionately been named "Sammies" in his honor. I have been privileged to be able to share the stories of many Sammies winners from this desk.

Mr. President, it is with deep regret that I share with my colleagues this news of Mr. Heyman's passing.



A respected business leader, philanthropist, and a champion of public service, Mr. Heyman will be truly missed. My thoughts are with his wife Ronnie, their four children, and their nine grandchildren, as well as his mother, who also survives him.

I also extend my condolences to the Partnership for Public Service family. I know they will continue working to carry on Mr. Heyman's legacy.

I hope my colleagues will join me in remembering Samuel J. Heyman and his tireless efforts to inspire a new generation to pursue careers in public service and to celebrate the enormous contribution made by federal employees to our great Nation.

## Terrence Lutes Internal Revenue Service

February 11, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once more to speak about one of our Nation's Great Federal Employees.

Across the country, Americans are receiving their W-2 forms and taking stock of their finances in advance of April's tax filing deadline. For families, the ritual of filing income taxes repeats itself each year, and, admittedly, it isn't very much fun.

Taxes have been an emotional and thorny subject in American history ever since colonial patriots rallied around the cry of "No Taxation Without Representation." Indeed, though federal tax rates for personal income are low compared to most other developed countries, complaining about paying taxes remains one of our national pastimes.

This is understandable. It is linked to the strong national attitude in our country that taxpayers' money should never go to waste. When Americans grumble about taxes, I believe it is not because they oppose them in general; rather, it is because they want to make sure that their money is spent wisely, fairly, and without unnecessary waste.

One of the chief complaints about taxes in years past was that filing was a time-consuming and confusing process. Many can remember those days sitting in front of a pile of forms and receipts, punching away at a calculator, pencil in hand, and a 1040-form covered in eraser marks. Thankfully, because of this week's honoree, most Americans – more than 95 million filers – avoided this headache last year by filing their taxes electronically.

Terrence Lutes was awarded the 2005 Service to America Medal for Citizen Services for leading the development of the Internal Revenue Service's e-File program. Terry, who spent nearly thirty years working at the IRS, served as Associate Chief Information Officer for IT Services before retiring five years ago.

E-File not only makes it easy for taxpayers to file online and receive a refund in as little as ten days. It also cuts processing costs by ninety percent compared to paper filing. This benefits the taxpayers two-fold. They save time and energy individually and also reduce the amount of their own money spent collecting their taxes.

Terry, who holds degrees from Eastern Kentucky University and the University of Colorado, first became involved with electronic filing in 1996. As the head of the IRS's Electronic Tax Administration, he became the government's evangelist for online tax filing. E-File had been available for years, but it was costly for the IRS to operate and difficult for taxpayers to navigate.

While redesigning the e-File system, Terry and his team focused on creating innovative public-private partnerships to reduce – and eventually eliminate – the direct cost to the taxpayer of filing online. He oversaw a workforce of over 6,500 employees, and carefully managed a budget of \$1.5 billion. Terry cultivated relationships with software companies and tax-preparation businesses, and the results paid off.

In 2005, when Terry retired after a long and distinguished career in public service, more than half of all tax returns were filed online for the first time. Today, this number continues to rise. For most Americans, what used to be a stressful experience is now fast, simple, and less expensive. Thanks to Terry, the way Americans pay their taxes is forever changed.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr., one of the great Supreme Court justices of the early twentieth century, once said that “taxes are the price we pay for a civilized society.” I am glad to know that great federal employees like Terrence Lutes at the IRS continue to work hard every day ensuring that our tax collection system is as efficient and responsive as possible.

When I go online to file my own tax return this year, I will be thinking of these outstanding public servants at the IRS and all who work in federal government.

## Vernon Hunter

### Internal Revenue Service

February 25, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize one of America's Great Federal Employees.

I have spoken before about the values that bind our Nation's public servants together. One of the most fundamental of these is sacrifice. We see that quality each day in the men and women who serve in uniform – both in the military and in law enforcement. They put themselves in harm's way to keep us all safe and protect our freedoms and way of life. Those who work in civilian roles also routinely take risks to their safety when performing their jobs, including the many federal employees posted overseas and at our borders.

This week, sadly, our Nation mourns the loss of a truly outstanding public servant who was killed last Thursday in the tragic attack against an office building in Austin, Texas.

Vernon Hunter was a twenty-seven year veteran of the Internal Revenue Service and, before that, served for two decades in the Army.

Earlier this month, I honored an IRS employee who made it possible for tens of millions to file their taxes electronically. At that time, I spoke about how IRS employees continually work hard to make it easier and less stressful for Americans to pay their taxes.

Vernon was one of the great IRS managers who helped process tax filings and resolve issues for taxpayers. He had a reputation for being kind and full of life. He always wanted to help solve problems. His biography reads like a lesson in service and sacrifice.

A native of Orangeburg, South Carolina, Vernon enlisted in the United States Army after graduating from high school. He served two combat tours in Vietnam, at the same time facing discrimination at home when he was turned away from an all-white boarding house despite wearing the uniform.

Vernon remained in the Army for twenty years, after which he worked for a short time in the private sector. But he had always been called to serve his Nation, and he returned to federal employment nearly three decades ago when he began working for the IRS.

Last week, Vernon lost his life when a small plane appeared out of the clear morning sky and struck his office building. The pilot also died in an act of apparent suicide, leaving behind a lengthy manifesto, condemning corporations, the government, and singling out the IRS. Though thirteen people were injured, Vernon was the only other person killed in the violent explosion that ensued.

Loyal, dedicated public servants like Vernon bravely put themselves at risk each and every day through the mere act of doing their jobs. The attack in Austin was, of course, presaged by the Oklahoma City bombing and the anthrax attacks of 2001.

Civilian federal employees know there is always a risk – many pass through metal detectors each day coming into the office. Mail is screened and emergency drills are rehearsed. A federal office building is a place of both dedicated work and unwitting risk in the name of service to country.

Vernon, tragically, epitomized both. He was sixty-eight years old and is survived by his wife, Valerie – who also works for the IRS in the same office – along with six children and stepchildren, seven grandchildren, and a great-grandchild.

According to his son, Vernon was planning to retire from the IRS and go back to school. He wanted to teach children with special learning needs. Vernon was also an active member of the Greater Mountain Zion Baptist Church in Austin, where he ushered and where his funeral will be held tomorrow.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Vernon Hunter and expressing our condolences to his family, friends, and those who worked with him at the IRS. He made the ultimate sacrifice while in service to our Nation.

Alison McNally  
Smithsonian Institution

July 27, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to recognize another of America's great federal employees.

In 1829, a British scientist who had never set foot in our country bequeathed to the American people his estate in order to create "an establishment for the increase and diffusion of knowledge." That he did so is a reminder of what this young country represented to those around the world who yearned for liberty and an approach to government based on wisdom and science.

James Smithsonian's gift continues to enrich Americans' lives to this day in the form of the Smithsonian Institution. The millions of Americans who have visited the nineteen Smithsonian museums, the National Zoo, and the over 150 affiliated institutions can attest to the value of the Smithsonian. Since its founding by Congress 163 years ago next month, the Smithsonian Institution has helped expose the American people to the arts and sciences.

Some of its museums have been traditional stops for families to bring their children when visiting Washington, such as the Air and Space Museum, the National Museum of American History, and the National Portrait Gallery. Many of us here can recall exploring them in our youth. Other Smithsonian museums have joined them in recent years or are under construction today. The National Museum of the American Indian - a beautiful new building with wonderful, educational exhibits - is celebrating its five-year anniversary.

Mr. President, the successful operation of this network of museums and galleries and the preservation of its treasures relies on the more than 4,000 dedicated federal employees on its staff.

Alison McNally is one of them - and a great one at that. As the Smithsonian's Under Secretary for Finance and Administration, Alison supervises a number of departments, including: the Office of Facilities Engineering and Operations, the Office of the Chief Financial Officer, the Smithsonian Archives, the Office of Human Resources, and the Office of the Chief Information Officer.

In this capacity, she plays an important role in the day-to-day operations of the Smithsonian, helping to ensure that it continues to provide the services Americans and foreign

visitors have long enjoyed. Earlier, Alison served as the Smithsonian's senior executive officer in the office of the Under Secretary for Science. In that position, she directly oversaw a number of scientific research support programs.

Alison has been with the Smithsonian Institution since 2005 and previously spent twenty-four years working at NASA. There, she served as Deputy Associate Administrator for the Management of the Science Mission Directorate. From 2002-2004, Alison was the Associate Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

Throughout her career in public service, Alison has consistently demonstrated a keenness for public administration and successful management. She holds an undergraduate degree in Human Development from the University of Connecticut and a master's of social work from Columbia University. She has pursued additional study as well at the Simmons College Graduate School of Management and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Alison McNally and all those who work at the Smithsonian Institution for their service to our nation. They are all truly great federal employees.

# The 2009 Arthur S. Flemming Awards

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*"Mr. President, these ten men and women are not an exception; they are exemplary. They represent our civil service's norm of excellence. They have achieved great things and now join the ranks of those who have shared the Arthur S. Flemming Award for their great contribution to our Nation."*

- June 15, 2010



## The 2009 Arthur S. Flemming Awards

June 15, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today once again to recognize some of our Nation's great federal employees.

This week, the Trachtenberg School at the George Washington University announced the winners of the annual Arthur S. Flemming Awards. These distinguished awards for public service have been bestowed upon outstanding federal employees for the past sixty-one years.

The Flemming Awards recognize career federal employees – both civilian and military – who have served between three and fifteen years in government. Nominees come from across the many departments, agencies, and service branches. Notable winners include former Senators *Elizabeth Dole* and *Daniel Patrick Moynihan*, Defense Secretary Robert Gates, former Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, and astronaut Neil Armstrong, among others.

The awards are named for Arthur S. Flemming, who had a long and exemplary career in public service, which spanned from 1939 until his death in 1996. He served in a number of important roles, including as Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare under President Eisenhower. Secretary Flemming also served on the U.S. Civil Service Commission under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman, the National Advisory Committee on the Peace Corps under Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, and as Chairman of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights under Presidents Nixon, Ford, Carter, and Reagan. President Clinton awarded him the Medal of Freedom in 1994. It is fitting that these awards, which were originally bestowed by the DC Jaycees, are named for Flemming. His lifetime of dedication to public service continues to inspire so many.

The Flemming Awards are divided into three categories: Applied Science, Engineering and Mathematics; Basic Science; and Managerial or Legal Achievement. These categories highlight some of the most exciting accomplishments by our outstanding public servants, who are helping to lead the way in scientific discovery, efficient public management, and upholding justice.

This year's medals in Applied Science, Engineering, and Mathematics were won by a trio of brilliant individuals who are keeping America at the forefront of STEM research.

Dr. Lynn Antonelli is leading the way in developing laser-based sensors for the Navy. The sensors she and her team created have found commercial and medical application in addition to providing our Navy vessels with extended optics and sensing underwater.

Dr. Steven Brown of the National Institute of Standards and Technology – or “NIST” – also works with light. He and his team have made great strides in the field of light measurement that have enabled more detailed environmental imaging of Earth. His work is revolutionizing the ability to detect minute changes in the environment as a result of climate change.

Also winning the Applied Science, Engineering, and Mathematics award is Dr. John Kitching. John has been leading the world’s top research program in atomic measurement. He and his team have developed ultra-miniature devices that can improve the accuracy of GPS, telecommunications, and medical imaging. They even have important national security uses, including in the more accurate detection of chemical toxins.

The three federal employees who won this year’s award for Basic Science are pioneers on the cutting edge of science research.

Dr. Dietrich Leibfried is one of NIST’s leading experts on quantum computing. This exciting field could lead to supercomputers faster and more powerful than the best ones we have today. Dietrich is responsible for many innovations in quantum computing, including the successful demonstration of a simple, fully programmable quantum computer, the first step in a long-term effort to build supercomputers that can handle nationally important applications, such as weather prediction, secure data encryption, and developing new drugs.

The Basic Science award is also going to Dr. Shyam Sharan of the National Cancer Institute at NIH. He has developed a simple and reliable way to analyze genetic mutations that increase a patient’s chances of developing breast cancer. This will help doctors identify those who have the highest risk of cancer and treat them preventatively.

Sharing the award with them is Dr. Eite Tiesinga, who works at NIST on ultra-cold atoms. By manipulating these atoms, scientists can carefully tune the quantum gases that might one day power quantum computers. Eite is frequently asked by researchers around the world to consult on their measurements and findings, and his work on ultra-cold atoms has helped put the United States ahead in the race to achieve successful quantum computing.

Four outstanding federal employees were chosen for this year’s Managerial or Legal Achievement medal.

Angela Clowers works at the Government Accountability Office, and she led the GAO’s efforts to audit transportation investments made under the Recovery Act. Her careful analysis

and testimony before Congress prompted the Department of Transportation to refocus some of its investments in order to stimulate additional job growth. Angela also led the GAO's audit of government assistance to the American auto industry under the TARP program.

Another who won this award is Dr. Marla Dowell of NIST's laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. Marla leads the world's most comprehensive research program in laser metrology. She won this award for her outstanding management skills and for leading a team that is developing lasers for highly-accurate measurement of manufacturing equipment. This will have profound and positive effects on both defense programs and on high-tech businesses.

Kana Enomoto won the award for a distinguished career working on mental health access. She served as a leader in this area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina through her work at the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Kana also spearheaded efforts to improve the agency's operations, human resource management, and other critical functions as the Acting Deputy Administrator.

The fourth winner of this award is Natalie Harrop of the Air Force Global Logistics Center in Utah. Natalie distinguished herself as a lead budget analyst for the Air Force's 748<sup>th</sup> Supply Chain Management Group. She revolutionized the Group's financial management, and her new system is being implemented across the 448<sup>th</sup> Supply Chain Management Wing. It is saving hundreds of work-hours and over \$5 million.

Mr. President, these ten men and women are not an exception; they are exemplary. They represent our civil service's norm of excellence. They have achieved great things and now join the ranks of those who have shared the Arthur S. Flemming Award for their great contribution to our Nation.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the winners of the 2009 Arthur S. Flemming Awards and thanking them all for their service. They are all truly great federal employees.

# Enforcing the Law

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*"When asked about why he decided to work in public service, Dave pointed to the value of volunteerism he learned as an Eagle Scout. He also said that he wanted a life characterized by a sense of adventure. Dave said: "I have never had two days in my career that were the same. I have traveled to just about every state, been overseas to four countries, I have seen the good and the bad, but one thing I can never say is that it was boring."*

- July 29, 2009

*"They train to be ready at a moment's notice for scenarios they pray will never come. Often, these security officers will stand at checkpoints for hours at a time, at the ready during days and weeks and months of quiet."*

- March 17, 2010

Jeffrey Knox  
Department of Justice

July 16, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, last week I spoke about the founding generation of Americans and the legacy they passed down to us of sacrifice and service above self. These are the values that constitute the foundation of our civil service, and it is these values that motivate our federal employees. It is what drives them each day to perform the small miracles that make American government work. Without their dedicated efforts and important contribution, we could not have a government that is responsive and representative.

That is the birthright the Founders left for us – that the people should be represented not only by officials they have elected, but by civil servants entrusted to carry out the people's business. In thinking about these ideas and about the Founders, I cannot help but think of those who risk their safety working as federal law enforcement officers and prosecutors.

One such outstanding federal prosecutor is Jeffrey Knox. As an Assistant U.S. Attorney from the Eastern District of New York's Violent Crimes and Terrorism Division, Jeffrey is on the front line in both the war on crime and the war on terror.

At age thirty-six, Jeffrey has already achieved distinction for prosecuting a number of important cases. He has become one of our nation's preeminent prosecutors trying suspects in terrorism cases. In his role as the head of the Violent Crimes and Terrorism Division, Jeffrey has been a leader in investigations of terror groups like Al-Qaeda, Hamas, and the L.T.T.E. His colleagues have praised him for his "roll up your sleeves, get your hands dirty" philosophy, and he has traveled to dangerous hot spots in pursuit of evidence.

One of Jeffrey's landmark cases was the successful investigation, arrest, and indictment of four suspects who were charged with plotting to attack the fuel tanks at J.F.K. airport. The attack they planned was intended to be as devastating as September 11. Jeffrey worked closely with the military, the intelligence community, foreign governments, and local law enforcement agencies in an eighteen-month long investigation.

In another high-profile case, he successfully obtained the convictions of a group of conspirators who were attempting to deliver missiles and other weapons to the L.T.T.E. in Sri Lanka. He also worked to put behind bars an Iraqi translator who stole classified defense

information and passed it to insurgents targeting our troops. Jeffrey has prosecuted violent street gangs in New York City as well.

What inspires me most about Jeffrey is that he did not start out as a criminal prosecutor. Before September 11, he was a corporate lawyer on Wall Street. After that terrible day, Jeffrey was motivated to leave Wall Street and work in the federal government as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. When asked why he gave up a lucrative position on Wall Street for a tough job prosecuting terrorists and gang members, Jeffrey said: "If ...you can put a dangerous individual behind bars so that individual will never have the ability to jeopardize another person's life again, then it's all worth it."

Mr. President, Jeffrey Knox is just one of many federal prosecutors and law enforcement officials who risk their lives every day to keep Americans safe. The sacrifices they make all too often go unrecognized.

I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring their service and sacrifices, and I join all Americans in thanking them for the important contribution they make to our nation.

Dave DiBetta

## Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives

July 29, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, many Americans can recall from memory the acronyms of several federal law enforcement agencies: FBI, DEA, ATF, and TSA are just a few. These are more than just acronyms – these agencies are composed of thousands of hard-working men and women who risk their lives to ensure our safety. Today I will share the story of one such law enforcement agent from my home state of Delaware.

When speaking about someone from Delaware who has spent a career risking his life in service to others, I cannot help but think of the generation of Delawareans who fought for independence. They, in particular, are part of a tradition of public service and courageous sacrifice that has always characterized the people of the First State.

I am reminded of Caesar Rodney, who, on the first of July, 1776, rode his horse eighty miles through a thunderstorm from Dover to Philadelphia to cast a decisive vote in favor of independence. I can only imagine the look on the faces of the other delegates when Rodney burst into Independence Hall soaking wet and in his riding boots, eager to do his part for liberty.

Rodney had already risked his life for the cause of American independence. A month before his famous night ride to Philadelphia, he joined fellow patriot Thomas McKean at the Old Court House in New Castle. There, before the Delaware Colonial Assembly, the two made the case for separation from Great Britain.

The unanimous resolution by the Delaware Assembly in favor of separation was the first of its kind. By this brave act, its members became traitors to the crown, punishable by death. This went a long way in encouraging the delegates to the Continental Congress to vote for independence.

Delaware has a long legacy as a pioneer among states. We are recognized as the First State because, as many Americans know, Delaware was the first to ratify the Constitution. Just as we took the first steps toward independence, we led the way in accepting the ideas about government that were radical in 1787 but which are recognized today as fundamental to preserving our liberty.

Mr. President, so many Delawareans continue in this tradition of service today. One of them is Dave DiBetta of Wilmington, who has been a Special Agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives for over twenty years. Prior to his service with the ATF, Dave served as a military policeman in the U.S. Army, stationed at the Fort Miles Recreational Facility in Lewes, Delaware. He also worked as a customs inspector at J.F.K. airport in New York.

In 1988, Dave joined the ATF as a Special Agent in New York. Two years later, he was transferred to the Houston Division's Special Response Team, which focuses on high-risk missions. While serving as an agent in New York and Texas, Dave participated in over 350 high-risk operations, and he was decorated with the ATF's Distinguished Service Medal in 1993.

In 1996, Dave began working at ATF headquarters, helping to lead large scale investigations and managing the bureau's photography program with a \$57 million budget. He also taught undercover investigation techniques at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Dave returned to Delaware in 1999, where he continues to work in the Wilmington office, overseeing tobacco and firearm investigations.

Dave has assisted in providing security for the 1996 Republican Convention, the 2000 Democratic Convention, as well as the 1996 and 2004 Olympic Games. In the days following the September 11<sup>th</sup> attacks, Dave was assigned to special duty as an Air Marshal for six months, helping to restore public confidence in air travel and serving on the front line against terror. As part of his duties in Wilmington, Dave represents the ATF at the Dover Downs raceway. He has trained its staff how to identify and prevent improvised explosive devices, ensuring the safety of spectators.

Over the course of his two-decade career, Dave has been awarded eight special service awards, the ATF Director's Award, and several letters of commendation. He currently represents the ATF in the leadership of the Federal Law Enforcement Officer Association, and he helped restart the association's Delaware Chapter.

When asked about why he decided to work in public service, Dave pointed to the value of volunteerism he learned as an Eagle Scout. He also said that he wanted a life characterized by a sense of adventure. Dave said: "I have never had two days in my career that were the same. I have traveled to just about every state, been overseas to four countries, I have seen the good and the bad, but one thing I can never say is that it was boring."

Dave and his wife are active in the Wilmington community, volunteering their time for community service projects with the Saint Anthony's Church and a number of charitable organizations. I had the privilege of meeting Dave last month at the Saint Anthony's Italian



Festival in Wilmington, and I am so pleased that he and his family could be here today at the Capitol.

Dave DiBetta's story is one of so many in Delaware and across the country. His willingness to risk his own safety to serve the common good recalls the heroism of our revolutionary forbearers, like Caesar Rodney, Thomas McKean, and those Delawareans who were the first to vote for separation and who fought for freedom.

I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring the contribution made by Dave and other federal law enforcement agents who daily risk their lives to keep our citizens safe. They all deserve our gratitude.

Erica Williams  
Securities and Exchange Commission

October 8, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise today once again to honor a great federal employee, something I have been doing each week on the Senate floor. I do so because I believe it is very important to recognize the unsung heroes who work every day on behalf of the nation with great effort and often with great sacrifice. Today, I want to honor an employee of the Securities and Exchange Commission, one of our most important independent federal agencies, whose work affects all Americans.

This great nation was founded on a belief in freedom and fairness, two fundamental pillars of American society. This is what the Revolutionaries fought for in the time of Samuel Adams and George Washington. It is what the Framers enshrined during the era of Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson. Maintaining democratic government and fair, open markets were the charge of every administration and Congress from their day to ours.

In the decades since World War II, American global leadership has focused on promoting these two concepts throughout the world. Democracy and a fair marketplace complement each other perfectly. A society based on fair markets cultivates an egalitarian political culture. Likewise, democracy instills in all citizens the sense that they ought to enjoy in commerce what they so cherish in government: a marriage of liberty and equality.

Mr. President, I have already spoken from this desk several times about the challenges we and the SEC jointly face today in protecting our financial markets. I have talked repeatedly about how, as a nation, our credit and equity capital markets are a crown jewel. Only a year ago we suffered a credit market debacle that led to devastating consequences for millions of Americans. I have squarely blamed the self-regulation philosophy of the SEC as being a major part of the problem. By this I mean that the SEC had too often deferred to those it regulates for knowledge, experience, and moral certitude.

I feel so strongly about this, Mr. President, because we have lived through an era where regulators and the leadership of regulatory agencies failed to regulate. And perhaps Congress, too, failed to give the regulators the tools and resources they need to do their jobs effectively. These failures have contributed not only to a financial disaster, but also to a loss of public confidence in our markets and our national economy. In addition, these failures run counter to our ideals of democracy and market fairness.

During the time of the Revolution, we were a nation of farmers and merchants, bound together by our common dependence on the trade of manufactured goods, foodstuffs, and local services. Today, we have become a nation of investors. Tens of millions of Americans own retirement accounts, and they depend on fair markets to protect these long-term holdings.

Many Americans have suffered directly as a result of the markets losing value. Those who have not been hurt personally surely know someone – a parent, a friend, a coworker – who has. The financial crisis has forced many to delay retirement or even go back to work. Most working Americans have lost something; some have lost almost everything.

Under its previous leadership, the SEC lost its way. While the failure of the SEC to follow up on tips about the Bernie Madoff Ponzi scheme is certainly emblematic of this failure – and probably a huge blow to the morale of the agency – I believe morale at the agency may also have suffered for a more fundamental reason.

Too often, in the past, the SEC leadership kept its employees from pursuing its core mission. This happened not only at the SEC but at other federal agencies as well. There was simply a philosophical difference between their policies and the need for effective enforcement of regulations. Employees at the SEC, while still working hard every day, sadly, I suspect, have become somewhat demoralized by this and by resulting setbacks. And, I might add, SEC employees have also had to endure criticism of the Commission in recent months by concerned members of this Congress – myself chief among them.

Today, the SEC stands at a crossroads. In the wake of last year's historic election, Washington has been focused on "change." The greatest thing about change is that it offers the promise of a new start. I wholeheartedly believe that one of the most fundamental qualities of the American people is the ability to pick ourselves up, dust ourselves off, and return to the important tasks before us. For the SEC, this means a renewed focus on its original mission: to maintain public faith in our markets; to protect all investors. The SEC needs to reassure long-term investors – many of whom are average Americans saving for retirement – that the system is not rigged against them. I know that the SEC can – and will – be a "can-do" agency once more.

In 2005, the SEC moved into a new headquarters, just a few blocks from the Capitol. It is a beautiful glass and stone building with a high, curving façade. The lobby is full of light, and its windows frame a view of the Capitol dome. Much of the building wraps around a courtyard, and in the center of that courtyard is a playground for the children who attend the SEC's employee day-care. Across the street are a school and a row of small businesses, including a busy coffee house. Behind the new building are the tracks leading out from Union Station, carrying business travelers and commuters each day.

The men and women who work in that building don't need to be reminded who they work for. They see them everyday out their windows. The stability and fairness of our financial markets affects every American, from the small business owner to the coffee-house patron, from the daily commuter to the future of that toddler in day-care. I believe that a new building provides the chance for a new beginning. I agree with the President that, at least with regard to the financial crisis, the worst is behind us. Now is the time for the SEC to step up to the plate. I know they can do it.

I have faith in the SEC because it stabilized our markets in the aftermath of the Great Depression. I have faith in the SEC because it always proves to be resilient during times of institutional change. And I have faith in the SEC because it has some of the most talented public servants, who are now working tirelessly to catch up after several years of failed leadership.

One of these public servants is Erica Williams, a lawyer with the SEC's Enforcement Division. A graduate of the University of Virginia Law School, Erica has been with the SEC for five years. During that time, she has distinguished herself as a trial lawyer on several complex cases involving accounting fraud. Before coming to the SEC, she worked at a major private sector law firm here in Washington. In July, she and her team of SEC enforcement attorneys won a hard-fought verdict in federal court on a case involving insider trading. This case, commonly referred to as *SEC v. Nothorn*, was a rare case involving U.S. Treasury bonds.

She could not have had better colleagues on this case than John Rossetti, Sarah Levine, and Martin Healy, all of whom equally deserve recognition. John is a graduate of Catholic University Law School, and he has served for nine years as an SEC enforcement attorney. Sarah, who holds a law degree from Yale, clerked for Justice David Souter before coming to the SEC in 2007 as a trial attorney. Martin supported their efforts as regional trial counsel at the SEC's office in Boston.

Erica and her team had to prove that the defendant had insider knowledge from someone inside the Treasury Department. Approximately \$3 million in illegal profits had been generated from this scheme. They argued their case strongly and thoroughly. They also had to prosecute the case with fewer resources than are usually available to private sector litigators. They worked weekends and sacrificed time with their families for long hours spent in the office or on the road.

It paid off; a victory that reflects what the SEC is all about: punishing and deterring wrongdoing. What Erica achieved with her team is more than a court victory, however. She is helping to send the message that the SEC is back – that those who are contemplating fraud better think twice. That is why I am honoring her as my "Great Federal Employee" of the week.

I know this is only the beginning. The SEC knows that it needs to focus on deterring those activities that make our markets unfair. That is what Erica's victory and what other recent gains by the Commission have done. As the new SEC Enforcement Division Director Robert Khuzami recently has said, the SEC is engaged in "a rigorous self-assessment of how we do our job." Their victory is what Khuzami meant when he promised "a focus on cases involving the greatest and most immediate harm and on cases that send an outsized message of deterrence."

I also have faith in SEC Chairman Mary Schapiro, who shares my concern for the stability and equality of our markets. She understands the trade-offs between market liquidity and market fairness, and she recognizes how important it is to protect the interests of long-term investors. As my colleagues are aware, since March, Chairman Schapiro and I have exchanged communications. I believe that, under her leadership, the SEC is coming back stronger and better able to pursue its mission.

The famous Alabama football coach, Paul "Bear" Bryant, once said: "I have learned over the years how to hold a team together. How to lift some up, how to calm others down, until finally they've got one heartbeat, together, a team."

Mr. President, Chairman Schapiro believes in the SEC's mission, and she is working diligently to ensure that all who work there are doing so with one heartbeat – as a team. They too believe in the SEC's mission, and we have to make certain they get all the resources they need, not only to catch up but also to operate ahead of tomorrow's market threats. Taped to the door of Chairman Schapiro's office is a sign to all those entering with new proposals or ideas. It reads: "How does it help investors?" This ethos must once again be the source of inspiration for everyone who works in that beautiful new building.

As the SEC embarks on its next chapter, I want all of its employees to know that when they walk out of that lobby each day and see the Capitol dome, they should feel confident that those of us who work under it are their partners. We will be their partners by making certain that the SEC is strong enough to do its job, and we will work together with the Commission to help identify and prevent new problems before they arise. The American people also should have patience and hope that the SEC is back and on the right track. We all hold a common stake in its success.

Mr. President, the era of looking the other way is now behind us. The time has come to look forward. I hope my colleagues will join me not only in honoring the service of outstanding federal employees at the SEC, like Erica Williams and her team, but in re-committing ourselves to help them pursue our common goals.

When it comes to protecting America's investors, we must have one heartbeat.

## Zalmai Azmi

### Federal Bureau of Investigation

October 14, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to recognize the service of one of America's Great Federal Employees.

This Monday, Americans across the country marked Columbus Day. It is a day that holds different meaning for different communities. I had such a meaningful experience attending the Columbus Day Mass and Breakfast at St. Anthony's of Padua in Wilmington. I know that in the Italian-American community, Columbus Day is a vibrant cultural celebration.

But Columbus Day, above all, reminds us all that America is a patchwork. That we are, in the words etched on the wall behind you, Mr. President, one Nation from many.

This has always been a source of great strength for our country. This is as true for our federal workforce as it is for America as a whole. So many of our outstanding civil servants were not born in the United States. Some came as students and found in America jobs and a new home. Others came as infants, carried onto airplanes in the arms of loving parents seeking a new beginning for their families.

Some traveled halfway around the world, driven by the dream of a better life. Others braved a short but perilous journey over turbulent waves, fueled only by the hope of freedom on our shores.

The diversity of our Nation is reflected in the diversity of those who choose to serve it. The federal employee I am recognizing this week has had a distinguished career in the Department of Justice, both in the Executive Office of the U.S. Attorneys and at the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

Zalmai Azmi was fourteen years old when he fled with his family from Afghanistan. He arrived in the United States speaking very little English, and he became fluent while in high school. Zalmai, wishing to give back to the Nation that gave him refuge, eventually joined the Marine Corps. He served in the Corps for seven years as a communications and intelligence specialist, and he also trained in special operations.

While in the Marines, Zalmai studied computer science, and he obtained a bachelor's degree in the field from The American University and a master's from The George Washington University. In the early 1990s, Zalmai continued his federal career by moving from the military into the civil service. He was working as the Chief Information Officer for the Executive Office of the U.S. Attorneys when the September 11 attacks occurred.

Zalmai helped implement the Justice Department's continuity-of-operations emergency plan, and by September 12 he was at Ground Zero in New York, setting up departmental field offices. Just weeks after the attacks, he volunteered to be dropped into Afghanistan as part of a Marines special operations team. In the two years that followed, Zalmai, who is fluent in Dari, Farsi, and Pashto, served two tours of duty in Afghanistan. While at home, he was detailed to the CIA's Counter Terrorism Center.

In 2004, FBI Director Robert Mueller appointed him as the Bureau's Chief Information Officer. In that role, Zalmai led the effort to revamp the FBI's Virtual Case File system and helped transform its IT infrastructure to meet the needs of a post-9/11 environment.

He was honored with the prestigious Arthur S. Fleming Award for Applied Science and Technology in 2002, which is presented annually to an outstanding public servant. Additionally, he won a Distinguished Presidential Rank Award.

Zalmai retired from the FBI late last year. His story, while unique, is reflective of the commitment to service and patriotism embodied by the immigrants who work in government and serve in the military. Just as America would not be as strong without our great federal employees, that workforce would not be as vibrant or successful without those who, like Zalmai Azmi, came to this country from other lands.

I hope my colleagues will all join me in honoring his service, that of the men and women of the Justice Department, and all immigrants who work in our civil service.

## Jeffrey Amos, Marvin Caraway, Jr., & Collin Richards Pentagon Force Protection Agency

March 17, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once more to highlight some of our Nation's outstanding federal employees.

I have spoken before about those who, in serving our Nation, place their lives in danger in order to protect others. On March 4, a lone gunman opened fire near the main entrance to the Pentagon, wounding two security officers before being quickly subdued. These two officers and a third who assisted them provide an example of the bravery and excellence of federal employees in law enforcement who take risks each day.

These three men all work for the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, which oversees security for the Defense Department's iconic headquarters as well as several other Defense facilities in the Washington area. It was created after the attacks of September 11, 2001, to provide comprehensive threat-prevention for one of the buildings targeted on that fateful day.

Just like those serving in other law enforcement and security agencies, the men and women of the Pentagon Force Protection Agency undergo rigorous training. Many are veterans of the Armed Forces or have worked previously as police officers for states and municipalities.

They train to be ready at a moment's notice for scenarios they pray will never come. Often, these security officers will stand at checkpoints for hours at a time, at the ready during days and weeks and months of quiet. As a youth, I worked two summers as a lifeguard in Philadelphia, and I remember experiencing as long stretches of intense boredom, punctuated by a few moments of sheer terror. For these three officers from the Pentagon Force Protection Agency, such a moment came just before seven o'clock in the evening on March 4.

Officers Marvin Caraway, Jr., and Collin Richards were standing guard at the main entrance to the building when a suspicious figure approached. Marvin sensed something was amiss, so he walked toward him to check his identification. When the man pulled a gun from his jacket and began firing, one of the bullets grazed Marvin's thigh. Undeterred, he held his ground and fired back. Later, his fellow officer would tell reporters that Marvin was like "Superman," "a man of steel."



Colin ducked behind a barricade and began to return fire. Hearing the shots, a third officer, Jeffrey Amos, ran over from his post nearby and joined the effort to subdue the gunman. In the process, he was wounded in the shoulder. The whole incident only took a minute, and the three officers fatally shot the assailant. The quick reaction and undeterred professionalism of these three are inspiring. All brought to the job a strong background in both law enforcement and public service.

Marvin, who lives in Clinton, Maryland, is a former Marine, who served in the first Persian Gulf War and has experience protecting our embassies overseas. Jeffrey, from Woodbridge, Virginia, is a retired member of the Air Force Reserve, and he spent eleven years on the New Orleans Police SWAT team.

Colin, who resides in Arlington, Virginia, recalled how his experience and training prepared him to react quickly. He said: "My vision was big; my hearing – I could hear everything... When the shooter started running, he looked like a big target. At that point, I felt like I couldn't miss."

Federal security officers, like Marvin, Jeffrey, and Colin, are our modern-day "Minutemen" – trained and ready to keep us safe from threats to our liberty and security. We owe all of them our constant appreciation.

Mr. President, I must add that we see the same dedication and professionalism right here each day in our Capitol Police force as well. I know how proud the Majority Leader is of his own service as a Capitol Police officer, when, as a young man, he stood guard at one of the entrances to this building.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Marvin Caraway, Jr., Jeffrey Amos, and Colin Richards for their bravery and a job well done – as well as all those who serve as federal security officers standing at the ready.

## Kenneth Concepcion United States Coast Guard

April 28, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to recognize the service of one of America's Great Federal Employees.

So many of our outstanding federal employees spend their careers in our uniformed services, standing at the ready to guard our liberties and protect lives. One of these services has a unique mission that combines coastal defense, maritime search and rescue, and environmental protection.

Mr. President, I am speaking about the United States Coast Guard. The 42,000 men and women who serve in the Coast Guard embody the highest principles of our nation. Their dual responsibilities in both civil and military matters require Guardians to demonstrate flexibility, patience, and resolve.

This year is the ninety-fifth anniversary of the Coast Guard's creation from the old Revenue Cutter Service. That earlier service evolved from our nation's first maritime force in the infant years of our republic. The federal employee I have selected to honor this week served as Chief of U.S. Flag Deepdraft Vessels and Plan Review for the Coast Guard at the time of the September 11 attacks.

Kenneth Concepcion was based on Staten Island, within view of the twin towers of the World Trade Center. On that fateful morning, Kenneth was the first Coast Guard employee on the scene, arriving at New York's Pier Eleven just twenty minutes after the collapse of the second tower.

What he found there was disorder and masses of frightened people with no way to get home. Kenneth took charge and recruited NYPD officers and Transportation Department officials to help him organize the crowds into lines based on intended destination. He assumed control of all the vessels at the pier and prioritized the safe evacuation of first-responders who had been injured in the attacks.

Thanks to Kenneth's leadership and steady hand, the Coast Guard was able to evacuate 70,000 people from Lower Manhattan that morning to points across the Hudson River. In

addition, he made sure that commercial ships continued to have safe passage in and out of New York Harbor, keeping some of America's vital ports open for business.

But Kenneth's heroism doesn't end there. Two months after the attacks, American Airlines flight 587 crashed tragically near JFK airport in Queens. Kenneth served as the on-scene coordinator for the maritime recovery of debris. Under his leadership, and as a result of his ability to get different agencies to work well together, all significant debris from the crash was recovered in less than two days.

Mr. President, our Coast Guard members, like Kenneth Concepcion, stand ever at the ready to keep our maritime interests safe and to serve as our nation's first line of search and rescue when disaster strikes. We rely on them to protect us, and I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Kenneth and all members of the Coast Guard for their service to our nation.

They are all truly great federal employees.

## Judge Timothy Rice

### Eastern District of Pennsylvania

June 9, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to recognize another of our Nation's great Federal employees.

Since first embarking on this series over a year ago, I have honored so many dedicated public employees from across the executive branch. I have shared the stories of some who work in the legislative branch as well. Today, it is my distinct privilege to highlight an outstanding public servant from the Federal judiciary.

Ever since the First Congress passed the Judiciary Act of 1789, one of the hallmarks of American life has been our fair and independent judicial system. Indeed, our courts have long been the envy of the world and a model for other nations.

It has been an honor to serve on the Judiciary Committee and to participate in the confirmation of Federal judges. Over the past year in office and in my many years of working as Chief of Staff for the former Judiciary Chairman, *Joe Biden*, I have met so many highly-qualified judges.

America's Federal judges have, at times, faced great danger. From those who served on the frontier in the nineteenth century to those who today face ever-increasing threats from angry litigants and others, Federal judges honor us all through selfless devotion to duty. Though they come from diverse backgrounds, judges must all share a dedication to justice and the law. For so many, these are truly a passion. They don their robes each day inspired by the biblical pronouncement: "justice, justice, you shall pursue."

The great Federal employee I am honoring today serves as a magistrate judge for the district court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. That court falls under the jurisdiction of the Third Circuit, which also covers Delaware.

Judge Timothy Rice has been a Federal magistrate judge since 2005. Before coming to the bench, Tim spent seventeen years working for the Justice Department as an Assistant U.S. Attorney. He served as Chief of the Eastern District's Financial Crimes Section from 1995-1997 and later as Chief of the Public Corruption Section from 1997-2002. In his last three years as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, Tim served as Chief of the Criminal Division.

While obtaining his law degree *magna cum laude* from Temple University, he held the position of Editor-in-Chief of the Temple Law Review. After graduating he clerked for Judge Anthony Scirica of the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. Before attending law school, Tim worked for four years as a news reporter for the *Observer-Dispatch* in Utica, New York.

Despite his busy schedule presiding over a wide range of criminal and civil matters, Tim makes time to give back to his community and his country. He has taught courses at the Temple University School of Law since 1990, and he was appointed last year by Chief Justice John Roberts to serve on the Advisory Committee on Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure of the U.S. Judicial Conference. Tim volunteers his time with a number of charitable Catholic organizations, such as the St. Vincent De Paul Society and ResponseAbility. He also works with Philadelphia Reads, a literacy mentorship program for second-grade students.

As a magistrate judge, Tim cofounded the Supervision to Aid Re-entry - or "STAR" - program to help reduce recidivism among ex-offenders. Not only has the three year-old STAR program helped dozens of ex-offenders make a smoother transition back into society, it has also saved the Federal prison system an estimated \$380,000. With volunteers from the court system, the Philadelphia Bar Association, and area law schools, as well as support from local charitable organizations, the STAR program mentors ex-offenders to finish high school or college, find employment, and avoid a return to crime. Thanks in large part to Tim's commitment, energy, and vision, the STAR model is being replicated elsewhere around the country.

Tim and his wife, Elaine, have passed on a love of public service to their daughters, Meghan and Courtney, who work for the State Department and have been assigned to numerous overseas posts since 2005, including war-time service by both in Iraq. Their youngest daughter, Caitlin, just graduated from the College of Charleston.

Mr. President, Judge Timothy Rice is just one of hundreds of Federal judges across the Nation working day in and day out to fulfill the promise of our Constitution's preamble to "establish justice" throughout this land.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking him and all those serving in the Federal judiciary for their tireless work to protect our lives and our liberties. They are all truly great Federal employees.

# The 2010 Service to America Medals

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*“One important value all of this year’s winners share is concern for others. Whether rescuing Haitian orphans from a deadly earthquake, fighting against trafficking of minors, or helping Native Americans gain access to Social Security benefits, this year’s medalists have dedicated their careers and their talents to helping others. They do it for less pay – yes, less pay – and often longer hours than jobs they could have taken in the private sector. If they receive a large compensation, it is in the form of satisfaction that their lives are serving a meaningful purpose in service to their nation.”*

- September 16, 2010

## The 2010 Service to America Medal Winners

September 16, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. President, I rise once again to honor our nation's great federal employees and, in particular, to celebrate this year's Service to America Medal winners.

Last night, winners for eight awards were announced by the Partnership for Public Service, a leading nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. One year ago, when I rose from this desk to pay tribute to the 2009 winners, I spoke about the values federal employees embody: citizenship, hard work, a willingness to take risks, perseverance, intellect, and humility. All nine of this year's awardees exemplify these qualities.

One important value all of this year's winners share is concern for others. Whether rescuing Haitian orphans from a deadly earthquake, fighting against trafficking of minors, or helping Native Americans gain access to Social Security benefits, this year's medalists have dedicated their careers and their talents to helping others. They do it for less pay – yes, less pay – and often longer hours than jobs they could have taken in the private sector. If they receive a large compensation, it is in the form of satisfaction that their lives are serving a meaningful purpose in service to their nation.

This year's Federal Employee of the Year Medal was awarded to a Citizenship and Immigration Services officer who helped expedite the adoption of more than 1,100 orphans in the wake of Haiti's devastating earthquake in January. Pius Bannis was the only American immigration official in the country working on adoption in the first weeks following the quake. He got right to work, organizing a temporary day-care in our embassy and ensuring the provision of emergency supplies to Haitian orphanages, including diapers, food, water, and clean clothes. Pius, in the midst of this Herculean effort, also had to cope with the loss of embassy staff and their family members. A naturalized immigrant to the United States himself, he knows firsthand the complexities of the immigration process, which makes him an outstanding CIS officer.

A resource conservation expert at the Environmental Protection Agency, Saskia van Gendt won this year's Call to Service Medal for her work on fostering green building technologies. Millions of tons of materials used in construction are disposed of each year in landfills – a third of our nation's total solid waste. At the EPA, Saskia has created an innovative program to help spur a green revolution in construction materials. In 2007, she developed the Lifecycle Building Challenge. This annual competition engages architects, students, and builders to develop new designs that reduce the impact of buildings on the environment. Since 2008, Saskia has been

working with the StopWaste grant program to encourage businesses to adopt environmentally-friendly equipment. The Call to Service Medal that she won recognizes those who have achieved early in their federal careers. Saskia is just twenty-eight years old.

Honoring those who have spent many years in federal government, the Career Achievement Medal was won this year by Susan Solomon, a senior scientist in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Earth System Research Laboratory in Boulder, Colorado. In her nearly thirty years as a government employee, Susan has been at the forefront of pioneering research into the hole in the Earth's ozone layer. Her research was critical in determining how certain consumer and industrial gases were affecting the ozone, which helped spur the landmark 1987 Montreal Protocol. Last year, Susan led a groundbreaking study that showed how the effects of carbon pollution, such as altered temperatures and changes in sea level, can linger for over a thousand years.

This year's Citizens Services Medal was awarded to a pair of officials also from Colorado. Shane Kelley and Eva Ristow work in the Denver office of the Social Security Administration. They won for their work to expand access to Social Security benefits for those living in impoverished and rural areas using an online two-way video service. For years, the SSA has had difficulties reaching those living in remote areas of the West, in particular Native Americans living on reservations. As a result, many do not know they are eligible to receive Social Security benefits that could drastically improve their families' standard of living. Shane and Eva developed an innovative internet-based video teleconferencing system to help connect these rural communities to Social Security representatives in Denver. For those whose annual incomes can be as low as \$3,000, this new connection to the SSA – thanks to Shane and Eva – has had a gigantic impact.

As Deputy Director of Intelligence and Security and Chief of Innovative Technology for the Navy's Joint Interagency Task Force South, Sandra Brooks won this year's Homeland Security Medal. Drug smugglers are constantly seeking new ways to evade our border security and customs checks. Sandy is one of the highly-dedicated federal employees working to keep one step ahead of them. Her role is to analyze information from a stream of sources and make sure it is shared quickly with the military, law enforcement, and homeland security agencies in the field. Sandy's efforts have directly led to the capture of over twenty submersible vehicles used to bring illegal drugs into our country. Her work is breaking down barriers that in the past have prevented security agencies from sharing information.

This year's Justice and Law Enforcement Medal was won by Jamie Konstas at the Federal Bureau of Investigation. An intelligence analyst, Jamie helped create a national online database used in investigations into the trafficking of minors for sex. Before this database was created, local law enforcement officials had few resources to track child victims or information on suspects after they had crossed state lines. Jamie's role is to spot connections and cross-reference



clues to break cases wide open. Her tireless efforts have led to the prosecution of over 500 child predators.

The winner of this year's National Security and International Affairs Medal led a U.S. Army team at Fort Detrick, Maryland, that developed a new kind of medical kit to help troops wounded by roadside bombs. In Iraq and Afghanistan, improvised explosive devices – or “IEDs” – have been used to target our soldiers and have caused many casualties. Teri Glass and her team created a unique medical evaluation kit that has allowed medics in the field to transport wounded troops more safely and efficiently to hospitals. This has significantly raised the survival rate for soldiers wounded by IEDs. The kit Teri and her team developed can convert a range of non-ambulance vehicles into medical evacuation vehicles in less than a minute, using a foldable litter, a rear-facing attendant seat, and a lift system. When not in use, all of it collapses into a portable container the size of a suitcase and can fit in the back of a vehicle. Commanders in the field have credited this device as saving the lives of countless service members.

Last, but certainly not least, the Science and Environment Medal for 2010 was awarded to the Department of Energy's Jeffrey Baker. As the Director of the Office of Laboratory Operations at the Department's field office in Golden, Colorado, Jeffrey has been the driving force behind the design and construction of the largest net-zero energy office building in the world. This means that the building generates as much or more energy than it consumes. Planning for the Research Support Facility began in the 1990's, when Jeffrey had a vision for a building that would not only house the Department's laboratories but also serve as an example of energy-efficiency. He oversaw the design process and construction, and the building was completed on time and on budget. Today, the General Services Administration is planning to replicate Jeffrey's approach for new federal buildings across the nation.

Mr. President, all nine of these men and women are excellent examples of what government does right. They deserve our thanks and recognition. So do the twenty-three other finalists, as well as the thousands upon thousands of federal employees who achieved great things this year as well.

I was proud to serve on this year's Service to America Medals Selection Committee – a blue ribbon panel that included my colleagues Senator Carper and Senator Voinovich as well as leaders from across the non-profit and business sectors and members of the House.

I hope all of my colleagues – and all Americans – will join me in congratulating the 2010 Service to America medalists and thanking them for their hard work on our behalf.

# Expanding Access to the American Dream

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*"In the 1930's, millions of Americans lost everything, and there was no social safety net to catch those in the greatest need. Today we are fortunate that the federal government coordinates vital programs preventing millions of Americans from slipping into the kind of poverty experienced in those days."*

- January 28, 2010

## Jayne Armstrong Small Business Administration

July 21, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once more to honor one of America's great federal employees.

Last week the Senate focused a lot of its attention on reforming our regulation of Wall Street. As important as that is, we must not forget that the health of our economy depends on the success of businesses on Main Street. Small businesses form the backbone of our prosperity and embody the American dream for millions of families. From the colonial merchants at our beginning to those who opened stores in frontier towns in the nineteenth century, from the mom and pop shops in the postwar years to the online start-ups of our day, small businesses have driven our economy.

Over the past fifty-seven years, the Small Business Administration has been helping small business owners obtain loans and find resources to help them prosper. By guaranteeing loans that small businesses take out from banks, the SBA enables entrepreneurs to grow and develop their businesses with confidence, which helps create jobs and improve local economies. It was created out of the old Reconstruction Finance Corporation, which was set up during the Hoover Administration to lend capital to businesses hurt by the Great Depression.

The SBA was founded in 1953, on the cusp of an economic boom that saw the proliferation of new small businesses throughout the Nation. In 1964, the SBA's Equal Opportunity Loan Program helped tackle poverty by encouraging new businesses started by entrepreneurs living below the poverty-line. In the aftermath of natural disasters, the SBA provides emergency assistance to help keep small businesses running. Today, the SBA continues to play an important role in helping small business owners launch and grow their businesses.

The great federal employee I am honoring this week has worked at the SBA for sixteen years. Jayne Armstrong currently serves as the SBA District Director for Delaware. I have known her for several years, and I have seen firsthand her dedication to helping Delaware small businesses thrive.

Jayne, a native of Pittsburgh, worked in advertising, high-tech economic development, and higher education development before joining the SBA in 1994. She holds bachelor's and master's degrees from West Virginia University. First serving as the District Director for West Virginia and regional advocate in the SBA's Office of Advocacy, Jayne helped organize the

White House Conference on Small Businesses in 1995. She also represented the SBA in Russia during the first-ever formal exchange between American and Russian entrepreneurs the following year.

Since coming to Delaware – and, Mr. President, I should add that she has lived in my home state for the past ten years – Jayne has become one of the greatest advocates for First State entrepreneurs. She has helped hundreds of Delawareans turn ideas into businesses. Nothing, including the economic downturn, slows her down in her drive to help small business owners obtain the loans they need to open or expand.

Jayne has placed a particular emphasis on helping entrepreneurs take advantage of SBA loan programs created through the Recovery Act, such as Queen Bee Beauty Supply in Smyrna – a minority woman-owned business – and Miller Metal Fabrication in Bridgeville – a design engineering and manufacturing company. These are just two of the hundreds of businesses that have Jayne and the SBA to thank for helping them get their start or expand into new opportunities.

Jayne is also substantially involved in our state's non-profit community. She serves on the boards of Girls, Inc., the Caesar Rodney Rotary Club, and Delaware Tech's Entrepreneurial Advisory Consortium, among others. Former Governor Ruth Ann Miller appointed her to serve on the Delaware Commission for Women.

Mr. President, The SBA serves as a fitting example of how the federal government works with the private sector to fuel job creation – a goal we are continuing to focus heavily on in this Congress.

I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking Jayne Armstrong and all of the men and women at the Small Business Administration for their hard work to help our small business sector grow and prosper. They are all truly great federal employees.

Christine Spicer  
Department of Labor

September 10, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. President, I rise once again to speak about one of our nation's great federal employees.

All of us here, along with our colleagues in the House, have just returned for a busy work period. I know that we, like all Americans, appreciate the extra day off we just had on Monday to rest and recharge, to spend time with family and enjoy a barbeque. It is important, though, not to lose sight of what Labor Day represents.

America was founded on the belief that if you work hard, you can achieve your dream. When American workers set themselves to a task, no challenge is too great. Since the nineteenth century, Labor Day has served as an opportunity to appreciate those who have made our economy the strongest in the world. Even with the challenges we face on Wall Street and on Main Street, I remain confident in our economy precisely because of our workers.

American workers built the canals and railroads that fueled the westward expansion of our early years. They labored in those first industrial factories, weaving textiles, smelting iron, and manufacturing new products. Our workers electrified America's cities and made possible our soaring skylines. Whenever they were called upon to serve, they laid down their tools and took up arms to defend liberty at home and overseas. Today, our workers produce microchips, complex machine parts, and quality products sold in markets worldwide. I know that American workers will continue to excel as we transition to a green economy.

The history of labor in our country can be told through the stories of Americans who have worked hard because they dream of providing a decent life for themselves and their families. The great labor leader, Samuel Gompers, when asked what motivated American workers to organize for better pay and conditions, said "We want more schoolhouses and less jails; more books and less arsenals; more learning and less vice; ...in fact, more of the opportunities to cultivate our better natures."

It took American workers many decades to win fair wages and safe working conditions. Today, the dedicated employees of the Department of Labor continue to ensure that American workers are safe, treated fairly, and have access to employment opportunities. This also includes a commitment to protecting workers' hard-won benefits.

The men and women of the Department's Plan Benefits Security Division engage in legal proceedings to make certain that employees' rights under retirement income security legislation are upheld. It is a busy office, and its attorneys and staff work on behalf of our nation's labor force and retirees.

On July 4, 2006, Christine Spicer, who had worked as a secretary at the Division for twenty-five years, suffered a debilitating stroke. It left her hearing and sight impaired and unable to walk. Unable to perform the office tasks she had done for a quarter century, Christine could have chosen to retire on disability. However, she was determined to return to work, to keep serving the public. Christine engaged in a difficult course of physical, speech, and occupational therapy. She returned to work in 2007, and now serves as the lead secretary for the Division chief - a job entailing great responsibility.

Despite lingering problems with speech and difficulty walking, Christine oversees the Division's payroll system, personnel paperwork, and a number of special assignments in addition to her secretarial role. She has been cited by her colleagues as disciplined and cheerful, and she is truly one of the Labor Department's unsung heroes.

The employees of the Department of Labor continually serve American workers by safeguarding their right to a living wage and providing what our dear friend, the late Senator Ted Kennedy, called "hope that the price of their employment" is not "an unsafe workplace and a death at an earlier age."

I call on my colleagues and on all Americans to join me in honoring Christine Spicer and all of the outstanding public servants at our Department of Labor.

Kenneth Carfine  
Department of the Treasury

October 19, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to recognize the service of one of America's Great Federal Employees.

I feel fortunate to have the chance to stand here each week and share so many inspiring stories. Since the spring, I have recognized the contribution of public servants from a number of departments – including, but not limited to, Defense, Labor, Agriculture, and Justice – as well as agencies like NASA and the CIA. Today I will be speaking about an outstanding employee from the Department of the Treasury.

This is a time of great challenges to our economy, our markets, even the power of our currency. But the men and women of the Treasury and its various agencies and offices are working tirelessly on recovery and securing our prosperity. The impact they make through their daily work can be felt from coast to coast. Public servants at the Treasury Department serve on the front lines of job creation, public investment, and the management of tax income.

They carry on the tradition of Alexander Hamilton, our first Treasury Secretary, who believed that the health and prosperity of our Nation depended on the strong management and oversight of public funds. He laid the foundations for America's financial system, which the employees of the Treasury reinforce each day.

Kenneth Carfine has been serving the American people at the Treasury Department for thirty-five years. A graduate of the University of Baltimore, Kenneth joined the Treasury department's Financial Management Service in 1973, the same year I came to the Senate to work for then-Senator BIDEN. During his time there, Kenneth worked in banking, cash management, payments, check claims, and government-wide accounting.

In recent years, he has worked under the Fiscal Assistant Secretary, serving as an advisor to senior department officials. His intellect and diligence have been critical as the Treasury addresses economic recovery. Earlier this year, Kenneth helped direct the Treasury's implementation of its responsibilities under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. He led the development of two new departmental programs aimed at spurring economic growth. One of them helps renovate affordable housing for struggling families, and the other funds renewable energy initiatives.

Kenneth has also earned respect as a leader in cash-and-debt management infrastructure. Americans who use a national debit card to receive their Social Security benefits have him to thank for leading the implementation of this program. His hand has helped shape how the Treasury deals with debt financing, trust fund administration, cash management, and a range of services.

Mr. President, Kenneth Carfine and all of the hard-working employees of the Treasury Department are leading the way toward economic recovery and sound fiscal management of the taxpayer's money. I hope my colleagues will join me in thanking them all for their service to our Nation.

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May 4, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, before I yield the floor, I want to note with sadness the passing of one of my previous honorees. On October 19 of last year, I stood at this desk and spoke about an outstanding employee from the Department of the Treasury, Kenneth Edward Carfine.

He served in the Treasury Department since 1973 and worked over the last thirty-seven years in banking, cash management, payments, check claims, and government-wide accounting. Recently, he had served under the Fiscal Assistant Secretary as an advisor to senior department officials. Ken's intellect and diligence had been critical to the Treasury's economic recovery efforts. He helped shape how the Treasury deals with debt financing, cash management, trust fund administration, and a range of services. One of his lasting legacies will be the ability to use a national debit card to receive Social Security benefits – a program he helped implement.

Mr. President, Kenneth Edward Carfine lost his battle to cancer last week. He is survived by his wife, Deborah, of over forty-years, as well as by his two sons, Ken Jr. and Greg, their families, and his two granddaughters.

Ken worked at the Treasury Department for thirty-seven years, and I know there literally must be hundreds of Treasury employees, past and present, who are grieving deeply today for this incredibly fine person and dedicated public servant. His passing is a great loss for all of them, the Department and for the nation he served so ably. My thoughts are with his family, friends and colleagues at the Treasury Department, and I hope my Senate colleagues will join me in offering our condolences.



## Iris Morales

### Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

October 28, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, I rise once again to recognize the service of one of America's Great Federal Employees.

Right now, the Congress, the President, and the America public are engaged in a historic discussion about the future of our health insurance system. This is one of the most important issues facing the country. The dedicated public servant I will speak about today works for a government-run health insurance program already serving 44 million Americans.

Medicare was established in 1965, its mission to provide coverage for all Americans over the age of sixty-five. At the time of its creation, Medicare faced criticism from those who were apprehensive of a government-run health insurance program. Today, however, Medicare is praised as a great success. Indeed, its fiercest defenders sit on both sides in this chamber. Medicare continues to protect nearly one out of every seven Americans against what would otherwise be prohibitive medical costs.

The reason for its success is not only that it provides a much-needed service to America's seniors. One of its greatest strengths is that the men and women who administer Medicare benefits are among the most outstanding federal employees. They work for an agency called the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, or "CMS." The CMS employee I will speak about today has worked as a Medicare benefits administrator for eleven years.

Iris Morales joined the CMS Chicago Regional Office after having first served for several years in the U.S. Navy. She has been on the front lines as a benefits administrator, helping to set at ease those who contact the CMS with inquiries about their coverage. Iris has called her job incredibly rewarding, and she is one of so many Medicare administrators who spend their days solving problems for America's seniors. On one day she might work to make sure a cancer patient has access to lifesaving chemotherapy. On the next Iris might reassure beneficiaries that their co-payments are low enough for them to afford critical treatments.

Iris is set to retire next year, and when she does, she will join the ranks of Medicare beneficiaries herself. I know that Iris, as a beneficiary, will receive from those helping her in the years to come the same kind of attention to detail, diligence, and professionalism that she has demonstrated during her years at CMS. Iris Morales and all the hard-working employees of

CMS are proof of the constructive and important role our government already plays in ensuring Americans' access to affordable health care.

I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing this unsung hero and all the employees of CMS. I honor their contribution, and I thank them for the great job they do every day. I know that America's seniors are grateful for their patience, their caring, and their service to our Nation.

Wendy Tada  
Department of Education

December 10, 2009

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, this bill funds several departments of our federal government. Its passage is critical as we continue a wide range of important programs and federal initiatives. One of the departments funded through this bill is the Department of Education. That is why I feel it is opportune to speak today about my “Great Federal Employee” of the week, who works at the Department of Education.

Mr. President, whenever I enter this hallowed chamber, I never fail to notice the inspirational words written on each wall above the doors. Above the East Door is inscribed the Latin phrase *Annuit Coeptis* – or “Fortune Favored Us in Our Beginnings.” This refers to our Founders’ belief that Providence looked kindly upon our republic during its earliest days.

In that time, ours was mostly an agrarian society. Town life centered on planting seeds and harvesting crops. Children worked alongside their parents in the field, and, when it came to their education, home schooling or learning to read and add in a one-room schoolhouse was the norm.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, some years after his presidency, that “Science is more important in a republic than in any other government.” It was this belief in the importance of knowledge and reason – including political and historical literacy – that led education pioneers like Horace Mann to promote universal schooling in the early part of the nineteenth century.

Shortly before the Civil War, access to compulsory and free public education spread across the country as states passed laws inspired by this principle. The Morrill Land-Grant Colleges Act provided for the construction of some of our Nation’s great colleges and universities in the late 1800’s. In the early years of the twentieth century, states increased access by expanding free, compulsory education to include high school. The last sixty years saw dramatic advances in this area, with the legal desegregation of schools and the passage of critical legislation like the Elementary and Secondary Education Act and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.

I am proud to have been serving in the Senate earlier this year when we passed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. That legislation sent much-needed funding to fix schools, make student loans more readily available, and keep teachers in the classroom. The Recovery Act so far saved over 230 teaching jobs in my home state of Delaware alone.

In 1980, the U.S. Department of Education was created, and its employees have been working tirelessly to make sure that students from all fifty states – including Delaware – receive the same strong support. They oversee the federal loan programs that enable tens of millions of Americans to afford college and post-college studies. They help develop policies to ensure that Americans with physical and intellectual disabilities have education programs in their communities and can pursue a full range of opportunities.

Wendy Tada, who has worked at the Department of Education for nine years, is one of these outstanding employees. When she arrived at the Department in 2000, Wendy already had a great deal of experience working to expand opportunities for rural special-needs students in Hawaii and Alaska.

Wendy, who is a life-long learner herself, holds a bachelor's degree in Psychology from Seattle University, a master's in Physical Therapy from Stanford, and a master's in Public Health from San Diego State. She also earned a doctorate in Developmental Psychology from the University of California in San Diego.

Wendy's experience includes working at the local and state levels. She provided physical therapy to disabled students in Washington State, developed an educational curriculum for special needs children in Hawaii and its remote Pacific islands, and evaluated health and education services in Native Alaskan villages. Wendy has taught college and graduate courses in education and public health at both the University of Washington and the University of Hawaii.

Her first job at the Department of Education was as a research analyst in the Office of Special Education Programs. Wendy's talents and experience led to her promotion within a year, when she became Chief of Staff to the Assistant Secretary overseeing that office. She continued as his top advisor when he was appointed to serve as Assistant Secretary for the Office of Vocational and Adult Education.

In 2006, Wendy became the Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of Education. This January, after a brief stint as an education analyst for the Office of Management and Budget, she was asked by the Deputy Secretary of Education to serve as Senior Advisor for Policy and Programs. During her years at the Department, Wendy has been instrumental in developing important regulations and guidance documents relating to IDEA and Title I of the ESEA. Today, her time is spent developing and putting into practice education programs funded by the Recovery Act.

One of the central programs under the Recovery Act is the new "Race to the Top Fund." This initiative represents the largest federal competitive investment in elementary and

secondary education in our history. It will offer over four billion dollars in grants to states that develop comprehensive education reform plans. This will help all states, including Delaware, save even more teaching jobs and add new resources for schools.

Wendy's work, and that of her colleagues throughout the Department of Education, continues to benefit American students nationwide. They ensure that all of our children are "favored in their beginnings," so they may pursue the opportunities they deserve. Education is the most important investment a Nation can make, for its dividends are our future prosperity and global leadership.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Wendy Tada and all of the hard-working employees of the Department of Education for their service to this country. Our future is in their hands.

# Anne Gallagher

## Social Security Administration

January 28, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise today to recognize another of America's Great Federal Employees.

Over the past year, we have witnessed the most significant economic downturn since the Great Depression. In the 1930's, millions of Americans lost everything, and there was no social safety net to catch those in the greatest need. Today we are fortunate that the federal government coordinates vital programs preventing millions of Americans from slipping into the kind of poverty experienced in those days.

Perhaps the most important agency involved in this effort is the Social Security Administration. Its mission is to provide a stable income for retired American workers and those who cannot work because of a disability. In the words of the great Revolutionary patriot Thomas Paine, "it is not charity but a right, not bounty but justice." He wrote those words in 1797, when he published an early proposal for social security. It was only in the midst of the Great Depression that such a system was finally established by the Social Security Act of 1935.

Seventy-five years later, the SSA's important work continues. One of the great Social Security employees is Anne Gallagher - who has made a career of federal government work.

Anne, who grew up in Wilmington, Delaware, and still lives there, has worked at Social Security for eight years. As a child, Anne attended the Wilmington Friends School, and she later received her undergraduate degree from Mary Baldwin College. After pursuing further study in New York, she worked for two years in the broadcasting industry.

In 1976, Anne began a lifetime of public service working for then-Senator Bill Roth in his Wilmington office. Her role, as Senior Caseworker for Constituent Services, was to intercede on behalf of Delawareans with federal agencies. If you were a veteran and needed help accessing VA resources or benefits, Anne was the staff member who would contact the VA for you. If you were trying to adopt a child from overseas but had an issue with the State Department that needed clearing-up, Anne would clear it up.

It was during this time, when I was Chief of Staff for Delaware's junior senator, that I first met Anne and witnessed first-hand her unmatched dedication and positive attitude. I know

that Joe Biden had such wonderful caseworkers, and they all thought so highly of Anne as the two offices worked together to serve the people of Delaware.

She handled important casework for Senator Roth for seven years before deciding to take time off to raise her two daughters – who, by the way, share their mother’s passion for serving the public. But the call to serve was strong, and after three years away from Senator Roth’s office, Anne returned. She continued working as an advocate for Delawareans until Senator Roth left office in 2001, and she also served as his Legislative Assistant for Veterans Affairs from 1994 to 1997.

In 2001, Anne spent several months working as the director of a non-profit helping American families adopt children from overseas. In early 2002, she returned to government service when she became Regional Public Affairs Specialist for the Social Security Administration.

In this role, Anne serves as Social Security’s congressional liaison for five states and the District of Columbia, which includes ten Senate offices and forty-three House districts. The reports issued by her office help Members of Congress, as well as other federal, state, and local officials, understand the status of Social Security distribution in their jurisdictions.

Throughout her work at Social Security and in Senator Roth’s office, Anne has earned a reputation for thoroughness, dedication, and a kind heart. Once, while working for Senator Roth, Anne received a call from an elderly woman who had been in touch with her regarding a casework issue. It was in the midst of a snowstorm, and the woman, who lived alone, could not get to the grocery store herself. Forty-five minutes later, Anne and her husband, Mike, pulled up to the woman’s house with a car full of groceries. Many of those she helped still keep in touch with her, even after twenty years.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring Anne Gallagher and thanking her for her service to our Nation and to the people of Delaware. I also hope all Americans will recognize the important contribution made by all who work for the Social Security Administration.

## The “Do Not Call” Team Federal Trade Commission

June 29, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise again today to recognize some of our Nation’s great federal employees.

Many of the great achievements I’ve hailed from this desk concern grand challenges relating to our national security, domestic tranquility, and our economic recovery. Today, I want to recognize a team of highly-skilled, highly-motivated federal employees whose achievement has positively affected the daily lives of average Americans.

In 2003, six outstanding employees of the Federal Trade Commission worked together to implement the national “Do Not Call” registry. Americans used to be plagued by telemarketer solicitations – which always seemed to come just as families were sitting down at the dinner table. The six men and women I am honoring today brought relief to families across the country by implementing this registry. Led by Eileen Harrington, the team consisted of Lois Greisman, Allen Hile, Stephen Warren, Carolyn Shanoff, and Lawrence DeMille-Wagman. They all brought to the table a strong background in a number of fields, including law, marketing, and business.

The FTC’s “Do Not Call” registry launched seven years ago this week, and it quickly became a hit. Within the first four days, 10 million Americans registered their phone numbers. Just a year after it launched, a poll found that ninety-one percent of adults had heard of the registry, and over half had already signed up. When Eileen and her team won the 2004 Service to America Medal for Citizen Services, the registry had nearly 60 million numbers. Today, that has risen to over 150 million.

To turn a good idea into a great program, the team spent several months designing and implementing the “Do Not Call” registry as part of the FTC’s rulemaking process. It required the participation of many at the Consumer Protection Bureau, the Economic Bureau, and the General Counsel’s Office. Information system experts and legal minds worked closely together with senior executives, and they were joined by financial analysts and Congressional relations staff. Once the policy had been crafted, there was a period of public comment, which saw over 64,000 suggestions on how to improve the registry, many of which were adopted in the final program.



In the seven years since the “Do Not Call” registry was launched, it has become one of the most successful government programs in terms of the number of Americans it has affected positively in such a short period of time. I am also proud to share with my colleagues that all of the members of the FTC’s “Do Not Call” Team are still serving in federal government.

Eileen Harrington remained at the FTC for a few years and in 2009 was appointed as the Chief Operating Officer for the Small Business Association. Stephen Warren served as Chief Information Officer at the FTC until 2007, when he moved over to the Department of Veterans Affairs as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Information Technology. Lois Greisman leads the FTC’s Division of Marketing Practices within the Consumer Protection Bureau, and her responsibilities include enforcing the rules against telemarketing fraud and online investment schemes. Also with the FTC’s Bureau of Consumer Protection is Carolyn Shanoff, who today serves as Associate Director for Consumer and Business Education. In this role, she has been instrumental in the fight against identity theft. Allen Hile and Lawrence DeMille-Wagmen are also still at the FTC. Allen serves as Assistant Director, and Lawrence works as an attorney.

Mr. President, we are all very fortunate that accomplished men and women like these choose to stay in government and continue working on behalf of the American people.

I hope my colleagues will join with me in recognizing the great work of the FTC “Do Not Call” Team, and thanking them on behalf of all Americans for their important work. They are all truly great federal employees.

## Michael Copps

### Federal Communications Commission

August 5, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to honor one of our nation's great federal employees. The federal employee I am recognizing this week – my eighty-ninth since last May – has made a name for himself as an advocate for sensible regulation of the communications industry.

At the Federal Communications Commission, Michael Copps has been a tireless fighter for the public interest and a steadfast campaigner for localism in broadcasting. In his position, as one of the five commissioners appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate to oversee the regulation of our communications industry, Mike must work with the other commissioners to come to agreement on key issues affecting broadcasting, the internet, and other media. Whether they agree with him or not, I know they have to respect and admire his passion and energy in advocating for what he believes to be the best way to serve the American people.

I did not choose to honor Mike only because he is one of the FCC's commissioners. He has had a distinguished public service career for three decades. His service as a commissioner is just his latest role in federal government. Mike is currently in his second term, having been appointed twice by President George W. Bush. Before his appointment to the FCC, Mike served at the Department of Commerce as the Assistant Secretary for Trade Development and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Basic Industries.

Prior to his service with the Commerce Department, Mike spent twelve years here in the Senate as Chief of Staff to former Senator Fritz Hollings of South Carolina. I got to know him during that time when I was Chief of Staff for then-Senator Joe Biden. As a Chief of Staff, Mike was truly first-class and earned the respect and admiration of his colleagues across the Senate. Smart, exercising good judgment, and a very good listener, Mike embodied the skills and values that make someone a great chief of staff.

Before coming to Washington in 1970, Mike spent some time working in the private sector for a Fortune 500 company, and he also taught as a history professor for some years at Loyola University of the South in New Orleans. He holds a bachelor's degree from Wofford College in South Carolina and a Ph.D. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

In his current role, Mike has been an untiring advocate for the public and has worked to push the FCC back toward its core mission: enforcing the regulations that maintain fair competition, protecting consumers, and ensuring that the communications industry serves the public interest. Particularly, he has been a crusader against control of the internet by big corporations. His promotion of an open internet is based in his belief that communications media should benefit all and foster the growth and development of communities.

Mr. President, last week I spoke from this desk about the dangers of regulatory capture. Over the past decade, many of our regulatory agencies have been caught up in a deregulatory mindset that viewed self-regulation as not only adequate but preferable. Michael Copps has long been a voice of reason against regulatory capture.

He is just one example of the many outstanding men and women at the FCC. They are all truly great federal employees, and I hope my colleagues will join me in honoring their service to our nation.

# One Hundred Great Federal Employees

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*"When I was appointed to the Senate, I saw it as an opportunity to draw attention to the important work performed each day by some of America's hardest workers. They work for all of us – they choose careers in public service not because they'll be paid more – they won't – or because it's an easy job – it certainly isn't. They do it for love of country, for a sense of duty. They do it because there are inherently governmental tasks we as a nation expect to be performed, and because we deserve the most highly skilled and hardest working public service to carry them out."*

- September 21, 2010

## Michelle O'Neill

### International Trade Administration

September 21, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. I rise once again to honor one of our nation's great federal employees.

Mr. President, as my colleagues know, I have been coming to the floor since last May to deliver a series of weekly speeches recognizing federal employees' contribution to this country. When I was appointed to the Senate, I saw it as an opportunity to draw attention to the important work performed each day by some of America's hardest workers. They work for all of us – they choose careers in public service not because they'll be paid more – they won't – or because it's an easy job – it certainly isn't. They do it for love of country, for a sense of duty. They do it because there are inherently governmental tasks we as a nation expect to be performed, and because we deserve the most highly skilled and hardest working public service to carry them out.

I have been honoring great federal employees from this desk for the past sixteen months. It has been one of the highlights of my time in office. Now, Mr. President, I rise to honor a great federal employee for the last time. I am proud to share that my honoree today is my hundredth great federal employee, a talented individual who has spent two decades reducing trade barriers for American goods.

Michelle O'Neill has served as Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for International Trade since 2005. In this role, Michelle supervises the day-to-day operations of the International Trade Administration, or "ITA." The ITA has over 2,400 employees and an operating budget of over \$400 million, and its mission is to promote American exports and ensure fair access to overseas markets for our businesses.

Michelle, who holds a bachelor's degree from Sweet Briar College in Virginia and a master's from the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas, first came to the Commerce Department in 1983 as an intern. Over the course of her career, she has served under five administrations and eleven secretaries of Commerce. She has travelled to over forty countries to carry out her work.

From a family with a long history of public service, Michelle knew very early that she wanted to pursue a career in government. Born on a military base, Michelle has said that

“public service is part of my DNA; I have always found helping others, being part of something bigger than myself, to be very rewarding.”

Throughout her career at the ITA, she has done just that – helping Americans trade fairly across borders and pursue commerce, which has always been a vehicle for achieving the American Dream. Michelle has consistently placed her work above her own advancement and taken risks for the sake of carrying out the ITA’s core mission.

Michelle served overseas from 1995 to 1998 as the Commercial Attaché to our mission to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. Before that assignment, she worked as the executive assistant to the Deputy Under Secretary of International Trade – the position Michelle now holds. In 1995, she served as a Brookings Legislative Fellow with the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Trade in the House of Representatives, and from 1990-1991 was detailed to the Office of Policy Development in the White House.

One of her major achievements at the ITA has been resolving a major China market access barrier, for which she won a Departmental Silver Medal. She has also been praised for her role in developing an online portal for government export assistance – called “export.gov.” Michelle was also awarded the William A. Jump Award for exemplary service in public administration. This June, she was honored as “Outstanding Woman of the Year” by the Association of Women in International Trade.

Today, Michelle is part of the ITA’s leadership team, and the American people are fortunate to have her talents and experience at work for them. She joins the ninety-nine other outstanding public servants whom I have honored weekly throughout my term.

Together, they are my hundred Great Federal Employees.

Mr. President, I hope to come to the floor next week to speak about a special group of outstanding federal employees. But this week’s honoree, Michelle O’Neill, is the final individual whose story I will share in this series. I hope my colleagues here in the Senate and all Americans will join me in thanking her and all those who work at the International Trade Administration for their service to our nation.

They are all truly great federal employees.

# Afterword: Great Federal Employees in the United States Senate



*"Indeed, on the west pediment of the Dirksen building it is inscribed: 'The Senate is the living symbol of our union of states.' It is a living symbol in that we rely upon a deliberative group of wise men and women to smooth out our differences and keep fastened securely our union's many parts.*

*We cannot do this without the help of our staff. They brief us on issues and provide up to the minute research. They are our link with executive agencies and the military. They maintain our busy schedules and keep us on time – or mostly so. They form a network that links our offices together with one another and make bipartisan deals possible. Most important, they keep us connected to our constituents while we are here working for them in Washington."*

- September 27, 2010

# Great Federal Employees in the United States Senate

September 27, 2010

*In the Senate:*

Mr. KAUFMAN. Mr. President, last week I stood at this desk and recognized my hundredth and final Great Federal Employee. Since May, I have come to the floor each week to share the stories of dedicated men and women who have chosen to work in public service.

Honoring these individuals has been truly one of the highlights of my time in office. As my term nears its end, I look over at this mosaic of dedicated government employees, and I hope that these speeches each week in their honor have drawn attention to the excellent work they have done and continue to do for our nation.

At a time when politicians express their frustration with lack of progress by attacking nameless, faceless Washington “bureaucrats,” I thought it important to shed light each week on the face, story, and accomplishments of individual federal employees. In that way, in my own small way, I hope I have helped remind people that those who pursue government work are constantly trying their best – often at great personal sacrifice – to make this a better country and a better world.

These hundred are a microcosm of our government workforce; as I have said before, they are not exceptional but exemplary. They come from over forty departments, agencies, and military service branches. They represent a federal workforce of 1.9 million.

Just as we hundred senators are a snapshot of the American people, these hundred Great Federal Employees are a snapshot of the hard-working men and women who serve the American people every day.

But, just as it takes more than a hundred Great Federal Employees to carry out the work of the American people, it takes more than us hundred senators to perform the work of the United States Senate. This week, in closing my series of speeches honoring public service, I want to recognize the untiring efforts of United States Senate staff.

I am not only speaking of those who work for members as personal staff. I mean everyone here who has a role in making the Senate work, including those who work in the cloakrooms, the Parliamentarian’s staff and that of the Clerk, those who provide support services through the Sergeant-at-Arms and the Secretary of the Senate, the men and women who serve as Capitol Police, and so many more. Over 7,200 people work as Senate staff in personal offices, for committees, and for the various services that keep the modern Senate functioning.



All of them know well the importance of the Senate in our system of government and the role it plays binding our large and diverse nation together. Indeed, on the west pediment of the Dirksen building it is inscribed: "The Senate is the living symbol of our union of states."

It is a living symbol in that we rely upon a deliberative group of wise men and women to smooth out our differences and keep fastened securely our union's many parts.

We cannot do this without the help of our staff. They brief us on issues and provide up to the minute research. They are our link with executive agencies and the military. They maintain our busy schedules and keep us on time – or mostly so. They form a network that links our offices together with one another and make bipartisan deals possible. Most important, they keep us connected to our constituents while we are here working for them in Washington.

Who are these staffers, and what brought them to these halls?

Many of them are young, in their twenties and thirties. They have an energy and passion for the issues on which they work. Those who stay more than a few years often spend their whole careers here, becoming some of our nation's leading experts in their issue areas. Just like members, staff preserve the institutional memory of this body and pass on its traditions and history.

We have staffers from both civilian and military backgrounds. Every profession and field of education is represented here. Senate staffers have trained as doctors, lawyers, writers, farmers, nurses, engineers, teachers, manufacturers – the list is endless. They come from every state and territory in the union.

They are creative and intellectual, pragmatic and imbued with good-old common sense. Senate staffers are diverse in both their origins and their ideas.

The paths that led them to the Senate are diverse as well. Staffers have come here because they are driven by a shared love of country and they long to play a constructive role in our nation's history. One of the common traits of Senate staffers is that, when asked, they will say that there is something truly special about working in the Capitol and these impressive office buildings. Their eyes light up talking about the history and gravity of this place. They share the great feeling of excitement from living inside the news.

Staff work under the long shadows cast by this body's members. Infrequently seen in the public spotlight, nevertheless their hands mold and shape everything we debate and pass. Here no two days are the same; there is no routine.

I like to think that my staffers are the best, but I know that every member or Senate officer thinks his or her staffers to be the greatest. I would never dare dispute any of them.

Senate staffers share in common a deep sense of pride in their public service. They share the experience of walking through these august halls and feeling goose-bumps from the power and weight of history and their palpable role in it. On both sides of the aisle they all want America to be strong, prosperous, and safe.

Mr. President, Senate staffers are so great because they take their jobs so personally.

This is why they work so hard. It is why they are here on weekends, drafting legislation, hammering out deals across the aisle, and advising their members on the next day's votes. It is why front desk staff assistants are so compelled to engage with the constituents who call in with questions about bills.

It is why security guards, maintenance personnel, and those who work in the Printing, Graphics, and Direct Mail division trudged through the snowstorm to get here when all other government offices were closed. It is why all kinds of staff are here past midnight regularly.

Mr. President, I was a Senate staffer for twenty-two years. My service as Chief of Staff to Joe Biden gave me the chance each day to work with wonderful people on both sides of the aisle who came to the Senate motivated by love of country. Many of those with whom I worked during those days went on to other jobs in government and continue in public service today. A number of former Senate staffers now serve in the House of Representatives and in this chamber.

As I come to the end of this series, I cannot help but think about all those Great Federal Employees I have not had a chance to honor from this desk. There are so, so many. They are the unsung heroes that keep our nation moving ever forward.

Mr. President, I hope my colleagues and all Americans will join me in thanking those who serve and have served as staff here in the United States Senate. They are all truly great federal employees.

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